THE TIMES 35P

No. 65,783 FRIDAY JANUARY 10 1997

LYNNE TRUSS
Kevin Keegan just wanted to come in from the cold
PAGE 46

THE DISCOVERY DIET GUIDE
DAY 5
The homoeopathic way to a balanced lifestyle
PAGE 17

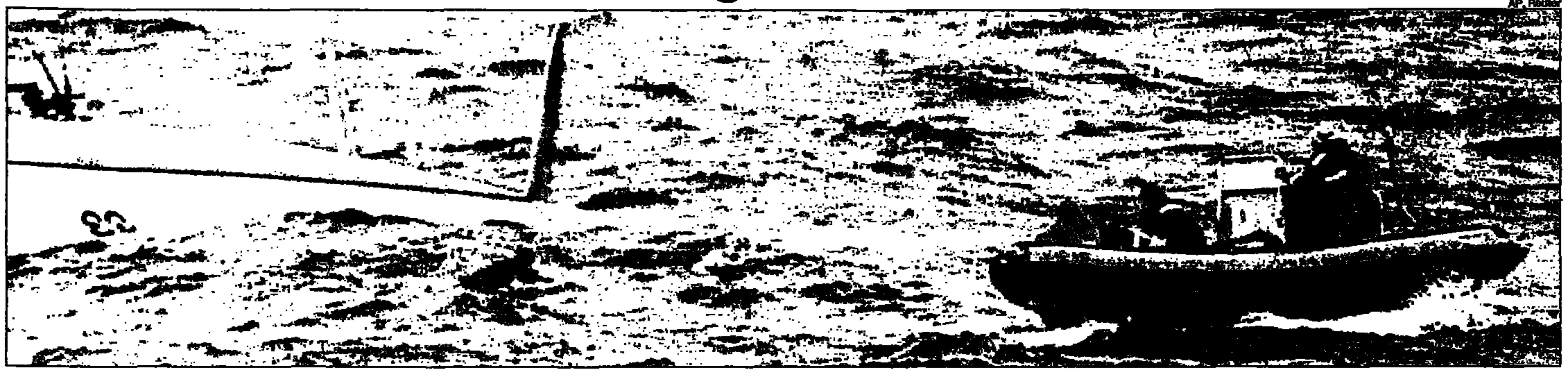
CAITLIN MORAN
How rock has invaded the language
PAGE 34

TOMORROW

ANNE FRANK
Julia Neuberger on a very modern heroine
WEEKEND

It's heaven, says rescued sailor

AP, Reuter



Briton shouted 'I'm coming' as divers knocked

From Roger Maynard in Sydney

TONY BULLIMORE was in "absolute heaven" on an Australian frigate last night after one of the greatest survival feats in maritime history.

The British lone sailor had spent nearly five days sheltering in an air pocket in the upturned hull of his yacht before being pulled from the Southern Ocean early yesterday. He had lost the tip of his left little finger and was suffering from minor hypothermia, dehydration and frostbite — but medical staff aboard *HMAS Adelaide* said that he was relatively unscathed.

As he recovered, the Queen sent him a message praising him for his "extraordinary feat of survival". She also congratulated the Australian services for their "dramatic rescue".

The climax to the operation came just as naval divers were preparing to cut a hole in the hull of Mr Bullimore's *Global Exide Challenger*. As the Adelaide reached the yacht and sounded its horn, the six-man crew on an inflatable dinghy jumped on to the hull and started knocking on the surface. Seconds later the noises were returned.

"Hello, is there anyone there?" a diver asked.

"Hello," came back the lone voice.

The divers asked if he could get out and thought he replied "No, I can't." But he then opened the door of the sealed compartment where he had been sleeping and simply swam to the surface.

Mr Bullimore, 56, said later that when the diver banged on the hull "I started shouting 'I'm coming, I'm coming. It took a few seconds to get from one end of the boat to the other. Then I took a few deep breaths and I dived out of the boat. When I saw the ship standing there and the plane going overhead and a couple of guys peering over the top of the upturned hull, it was heaven, absolute heaven."

Mr Bullimore's ordeal had begun at 6 pm on Sunday when he and fellow yachtsman Thierry Dubois — both taking part in the Vendée Globe round-the-world race — sent out four distress signals. Their boats had been overturned by a fierce wind and mountainous seas 1,500 miles south west of Australia. M Dubois took to his liferaft and was eventually winched to safety by a helicopter from the *Adelaide*.

Mr Bullimore sought refuge in a tiny watertight compartment in his yacht's upturned hull. Outside there were 60 knot winds, 50 feet swells and a temperature hovering just above freezing. Inside, it was wet and pitch black.

The 5ft 3in sailor activated his distress beacons and prepared himself for a long wait. He knew that he was at least three days' sailing from land and that there was no possibility of a helicopter rescue at that distance. Also, with his radio lost, it was impossible to contact the race organisers in Paris. But he still had a few tricks up his sleeve.

Back at rescue headquarters in Canberra, the signal from the beacons was being monitored closely. Some 24 hours after the first signals were picked up, the team noticed a change in the beacon's mode, which could only have been done manually, and realised that the skipper must be alive.

Come day two in the black air bubble, Mr Bullimore's spirits lifted when he heard the drone of an aircraft. An RAAF Orion came low over the capsized craft, but could see no sign of its skipper or its liferaft and flew on.

Mr Bullimore had guessed that the plane came from the Royal Australian Air Force and was confident that help was on its way. But by now he was hungry and thirsty. He had no water, he was developing frostbite and he had amputated part of his finger while shutting a hatch.

By day three, he knew help was getting closer when he heard the noise from a sonar beacon which had been dropped alongside. These devices have acutely sensitive microphonesand Mr Bullimore knew that his rescuers hoped for a response, so he tapped on the wall of his hull.

When an Air Force Orion tuned into the knocking, rescuers feared at first that it might be coming from debris in the hull, but when they analysed the recording there was a definite sequence.

On day four, the severely dehydrated Mr Bullimore decided to encourage his rescuers by activating the last beacon he had kept tucked in his red immersion suit. The noise was picked up by a nearby Orion.

Suddenly the *Adelaide's* horn blasted across the ocean. As Colonel Andrew Reynolds of the Australian Defence Force said afterwards: "Tony's head just popped up out of the water and we pulled him on to an inflatable. He obviously heard the horn and decided now's the time to leave."

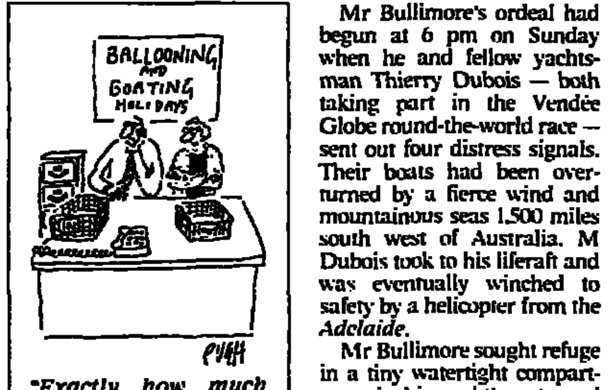
Mr Bullimore smiled as he was transferred to the *Adelaide*. "Thank you," he said. "Could I have a cup of tea?"

The *Adelaide* is now expected to return to Fremantle, by Monday, when Mr Bullimore and M Dubois will be reunited with their families.

The rescue operation is believed to have cost the Australian Government about £3 million and while there was elation at the success of the venture, the sports minister, Warwick Smith, called for race organisers to change the rules so that competitors do not sail so far south.

Bullimore's story, pages 2, 3
Leading article, page 21
Design problem, page 45

Tony Bullimore surfaces from his upturned yacht and is hauled on to a rubber dinghy and wrapped in foil (below) by rescuers from the Adelaide



"Exactly how much market research did you do?"

Private schools' A levels wrongly upgraded

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

A TEAM of examiners raised the scores of some independent school candidates in last summer's English A level by up to two grades without looking at the papers, an unprecedented public report by scrutineers said yesterday.

The Oxford-based group, which has conducted a war of words with the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority for almost two months, failed only five out of 5,341 candidates. Hundreds of teenagers are thought to have been regraded too generously.

In some cases, the 11-strong team responsible for ensuring the consistency of grades was found to have accepted schools' predictions in preference to the original examiner's marks. One candidate had the marks for a section increased from 14 to 40 out of 60 "with no apparent justification".

The examiners, most of whom had been together for more than a decade, oversaw the marking of one in 12 students taking English A level last summer. Most candidates came from independent schools, producing a pass rate in the top two grades of twice the national average.

Nick Tate, SCAA's chief executive, said the routine scrutiny of examining by the now merged Oxford and Cambridge board was the most damning he had ever read. The authority had decided to publish its

Continued on p 5, col 1

Oxford yields, page 5
Education, page 39

Sinatra suffers heart attack

Frank Sinatra, 81, was taken to hospital in Beverly Hills after suffering an "uncomplicated" heart attack. The entertainer's prognosis was said to be good and he was undergoing tests and treatment.

Buying The Times overseas
Austria Sch 40; Belgium B Frs 80; Canada $3.50; Canaries Pes 325; Cyprus C£1.20; Denmark Dkr 15.00; Finland Fmk 17.00; France F 14.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 90p; Greece Dr 500; Netherlands Fl 4.50; Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg Lf 60; Madeira Esc 350; Malta 45c; Morocco Dir 27.00; Norway Kr 20.00; Portugal con Esc 350; Spain Pts 325; Sweden Skr 10.50; Switzerland S Frs 4.00; Tunisia Din 2,000; USA $3.50.

The Times on the Internet
http://www.the-times.co.uk

02
9 770140 046350

Franc put in shade by soaring pound

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

THE pound marched to its highest level for four years yesterday as the French franc moved further down.

The pound now stands at Fr9 for the first time since it left the European Exchange Rate Mechanism in 1992 — two years ago it bought only Fr7.60. The moves came as investors responded to the dramatic gap opening up between the healthy performance of the British economy and deepening economic problems on the continent.

The mark slumped after figures showing that German unemployment has reached 4.16 million, its highest level since the war.

Sterling finished at 96.6 on its index against a basket of currencies, its best level for four years. Speaking in Tokyo, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said that the economy had never been better.

In comparison, continental economies are facing worsening problems because of the race to meet the Maastricht treaty criteria for joining a single currency. They are having to squeeze their budget deficits and this, in turn, is leading to weak growth and rising unemployment.

One of the major reasons why investors are such enthusiastic buyers of the pound is that British interest rates are expected to rise this year to prevent a runaway consumer boom while European governments may have to cut their interest rates to bolster their sagging economies.

Profit warnings, page 25
Pennington, page 27
Anatole Kaletsky, page 29

Boy truant dies in frozen pond

A TRUANT schoolboy collecting golf balls from a frozen pond yesterday became the seventh person this winter to die after falling through ice (Gillian Bowditch and Michael Hornsby write).

Peter John Sinclair, 15, ignored warnings from pensioners at Auchenharvie golf course at Stevenston, near Ardrossan, Ayrshire.

After getting into trouble he tried to swim to an island but could not stay afloat. A firefighter waded into the pond with a rope around his chest but was brought out suffering from hypothermia.

The Meteorological Office said the cold will continue today with more snow possible, but forecast a thaw in northern and western Britain from Saturday.

Forecast, page 24

Major gambles on Wirral by-election

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR has opted for the high-risk strategy of holding a by-election in Wirral South which could put the Tories into a minority administration weeks before a general election.

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, made the surprise announcement that the Government would move a parliamentary writ for the by-election by February 3. A poll would be then held late next month or in early March.

Tory strategists said the by-election would make it less likely that the Prime Minister would call a general election on March 20. They said May 1 was still his favoured option.

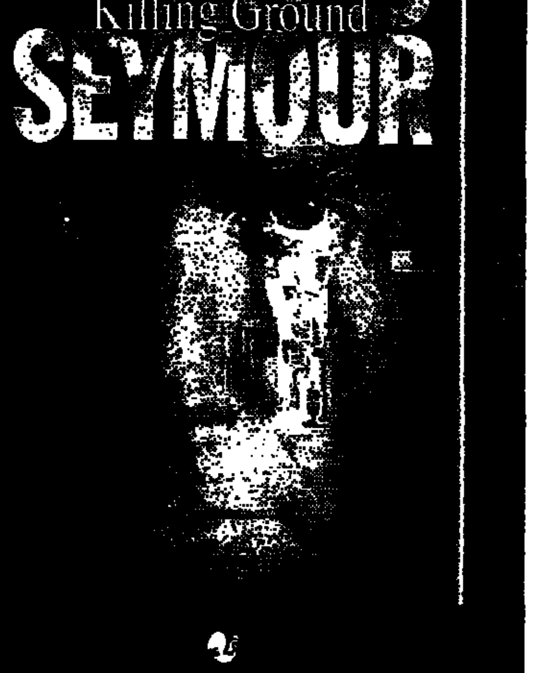
Tony Blair immediately urged the people of Wirral South to give a lead to the rest of the country: Labour would need a swing of 8.2 per cent totake the seat. He said Labour had bounced the Government into holding the by-election.

The decision ends weeks of speculation that the Government would delay the poll so that it was superseded by the general election. The Tories are not tipped to hold the seat and such a move would have avoided the risk of a demoralising defeat in the run-up to a general election.

But Dr Mawhinney said the Government would abide by parliamentary convention and move the writ by February 3, three months after the death last November of Barry Porter, who held the seat with a majority of 8,183. The contest would then take place by March 6 at the latest.

Asian voters wooed, page 12

He'll take you to the killing ground, but then you're on your own.



OUT NOW IN BANTAM PRESS HARDCOVER

TV & RADIO 46, 47
WEATHER 24
CROSSWORDS 24, 48
LETTERS 21, 29, 42
OBITUARIES 23
BERNARD LEVIN 20
ARTS 34-36
CHESS & BRIDGE 42
COURT & SOCIAL 22
SPORT 40-46, 48
EDUCATION 39
VALERIE GROVE 18

هكذا من الأصل

Tony Bullimore's own account of his ordeal – and the moment he realised he was safe

'I heard a diver banging, it was Heaven'

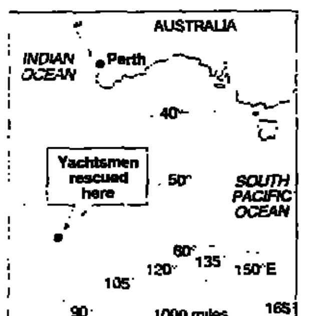
Tony Bullimore moments after his rescue yesterday, comforted by Chief Petty Officer Bosun Peter Wicker and Leading Seaman Clearance Diver Alan Rub

Tony Bullimore told the story of his incredible five-day fight for survival, holed up in a tiny air pocket in his upturned yacht, to Jerry Pratley, a reporter for the West Australian newspaper in Perth, who is on board HMAS Adelaide

I WAS starting to doubt whether I would be saved when I heard a diver banging on the side of the hull. I had to think about it for a few seconds because there was continuous banging all the time from the rigging. The banging was a big, heavy banging, and it was like Heaven, it was like Heaven.

Then I heard a voice outside and I started shouting, "I'm coming, I'm coming." It took me a few seconds to get from one end of the boat to the other. Then I took a few deep breaths and I dived out of the boat.

When I saw the ship standing there and the plane going overhead, and a couple of guys peering over the top of the upturned hull, it was Heaven, absolute Heaven. I really, really never thought I would reach that far. I was starting to look back over my life and was starting to think, "Well, I've had a good life. I've done most of the things I had wanted to do."



I think if I was picking words to describe it, it would be a miracle, an absolute miracle. You've got about two thirds of the hull filled with water. There was a hole in the bottom of the hull, in fact really at the top, where one of the windows had come out, and it caused a type of vacuum. The hole caused water to be sucked in and out at a colossal rate that caused a kind of Niagara Falls, but upside-down.

I had to find myself a spot as high up as possible and put nets around it, so that I could crawl in there and lash myself in to get out of the water and to get away from everything.

God, I never thought I would be here. I've been in some situations in my life before, but this was the hardest. It was pitch dark down there and I had no torches, and the vacuum from the hole where the window had broken was terrible. It sucked everything out of the boat, actually ripping the chart table out. All sorts of fittings-out like the radios, a chair and everything, went out — it was quite amazing. I had to spend a lot of time up in my little den, my little hidy-hole.

I stayed curled up to keep myself warm and had to come down, get into the water, which was up to my neck, to get to the entranceway to see what was going on. I wanted to get to the liferaft because I was frightened that anybody who would come might just look and say, "Ah, it's all finished."

I had to dive out of the entranceway and swim up through the cockpit, until I got to the liferaft and start lashing it. I couldn't get the rope off because I only had under a minute to dive up there. My breath was not too good because I smoke.

I went up there about a dozen times and each time I went up there I had to immediately go back to my little bolt-hole so that I could warm up. I would have to stay there for about two hours to warm up, then go back down to have another go.

When I started this race, and I got myself together and got the boat together, I never dreamt of something like this. I've had a lot of experience, I've done over 200,000 miles of ocean racing. I'm a bit of a loner. I'm not a rich man, I come from a pretty ordinary family and I've struggled all the way.

I had different problems with the boat on the way. One of my fuel tanks broke down and I lost half my fuel. Then my Satcom C [communications link] went down and my heater went, then the bilge pump was giving trouble and there were a lot of other minor problems. Then I started getting creaking noises from the keel.

But the funny thing was that the first bad weather I got in the Southern Ocean wasn't too bad, 50-55 knots. I couldn't go downwind with it because the boat wanted to keep luffing up [the bow kept turning into the direction from which the wind was blowing: the effect is to stop the boat]. But I was doing a steady 10-15 knots and as soon as I put the automatic pilot on, the boat wanted to luff up. It was doing 25 knots and luffing up, luffing up.

I had to change course and run under bare poles [without any sails]. I thought it had it conquered, I thought I had found a way. Then I went down to Heard Island and was actually within five miles of Heard Island. It was absolutely fabulous. I took some pictures and it was really lovely.

I felt really happy with all this. I made myself a nice cup of tea, opened a pack of biscuits and thought, "This is great."

I got over that, then got into this high [pressure system]. I had four days of high, with blue skies, flat seas; doing about 8-10 knots, not very fast but it's the time to dry out the boat.

I dried out the boat, I dried some clothes and cooked a nice curry, a nice stinking-hot curry. I had some cheese and biscuits and everything was nice.

Then the wind started to come, and come, and come. I didn't have a weather fax, Satcom C or nothing like that. I had to smell the weather, smell it because I didn't have any other way of knowing what was happening.

Then the winds hit 25-30 knots, 35-40 knots, 45-50, 55-60 and then it was rolling around. I got the boat going beautifully, bare poles, lashed everything down, got everything tucked away down below and put everything in a position so that you could be chucked from one side to the other with no damage.

I was sitting there with my old cup of tea and then bang, the keel popped off. The moment it banged off, the boat went over so quick. It rolled and rolled and rolled. Then I was standing on the bottom [roof] of the boat and for most of the night it was OK.

Then the window went in and water started coming in like Niagara Falls.

Let's put it this way, with the experiences that I've experienced with this, there is no room to try to be too radical and have too much high technology. You have to have everything completely tested, tested again and triple-tested, if you want to go long distances.

If you want to play games, you do it in Sydney Harbour, or Plymouth Harbour in England, or Newport Rhode Island. You don't go down past Heard Island, then hope your keel will hang on with a new, radical system, or with new masts or something like that. You have to be very careful to undertake such a long voyage.

I was amazed, I was amazed with myself.

I've been there before, I have to tell you, I've been in the middle of the Atlantic, in a liferaft, nearly 20 years ago. It was a different kind of calamity, but there you are.

I was in the Bay of Biscay in another situation in a very fast boat in 1986 that did a flip, so I'm a bit of a glutton for punishment.

But now that I'm getting a bit old, there is one thing — and I don't mind telling the world — I've become more human in these last six days. I'm a different person. I won't be so rude to people, not that I was, but I'll be much more of a gentleman and, equally, I'll listen to people a lot more.

And as a dear old friend of mine, David Mathieson, said, when he had a heart attack — and I've never had a heart attack, I've got a strong heart, I hope I still have — he said that when he got over it and opened his window in his bedroom, and he peered out and smelt the fresh air and all the rest of it, he said, "God, it was like being born all over again, life was great."

Well, that's how I feel now, like being born all over again.

I wasn't sure if I heard planes flying overhead or whether I was imagining it. I was in my little bolt-hole and I heard this "vroom" noise two or three times, and I got up like lightning and went to the entranceway to make sure. I had been tricked by that before, with the noises of the rig.

I thought that if I dived out, I might not get back in. I had lost my toolbag. I was going to make a hole in the hull so I could fire rockets through and put my emergency beacon out there. I thought that as soon as I had a spare beacon, that I could play with [the frequency] that could be recognised.

Like when the diver banged on the hull, in a funny old way I knew it was a bloody human being. Before that I would hear bangs and sit there for half an hour, but it would be the same rhythm bangs and I thought it was part of the boat.

Then I thought I heard helicopters just after the planes, but whether that was possible or not I just didn't know. When I heard that I nearly cried, because I thought, "Christ, I've missed my opportunity," and the helicopters had gone off, thinking this was a waterlogged boat that was finished. I thought to myself, "I should have dived out, come out and swam around, rain, hail or shine, and take the chance."

When I heard the helicopter again, it was like Heaven. When I heard the banging on the side, I picked up anything I could, used my fist, anything to bang the side.

I went through three cabins to get to the other end, screaming: "I'm coming out, I'm coming out." I took a few deep breaths and came out, straight through the hole, and the ship was standing there and I thought, "I'm saved. I'm all right."

Proud Australia shrugs off the £3m cost of a job well done

THE price of one life in the waters of the Southern Ocean can be staggeringly expensive: insurance experts yesterday put the cost of saving Tony Bullimore and Thierry Dubois at more than £3 million.

Yet the bill to cover four airforce planes, which flew around the clock for nearly four days, plus a week-long voyage by a navy frigate and a support vessel, has not so far seemed to bother most Australians.

The cheers that greeted his rescue could be heard right across the nation and there was an immediate outpouring of relief and the celebration of a job well done. Someone, somewhere, however has to pick up the tab.

Nearly 300 naval and airforce personnel were actively engaged in the rescue with many more providing logistical back-up. The frigate *Adelaide* cost £50,000 a day. The aircraft which spent four days searching the seas cost tens of thousands of pounds an hour to keep in the air.

Then there are the smaller items such as the sonar bouys which were placed alongside Mr Bullimore's yacht and the liferafts which were dropped to him and Dubois. Under international shipping law, the cost of diverting the oil tanker *Sanko Phoenix* will be met by the vessel's company.

Yet The Australian Defence Minister, Ian McLachlan, was keen to play down the cost of the rescue last night and to emphasise the positive. "This has not been a loss to us but a great morale boost," he said. "It will also produce a great store of knowledge, which you can't buy. So it won't be a case of the extra cost to the military of this rescue, because the extra flying and sailing hours involved will simply be taken off future exercises."

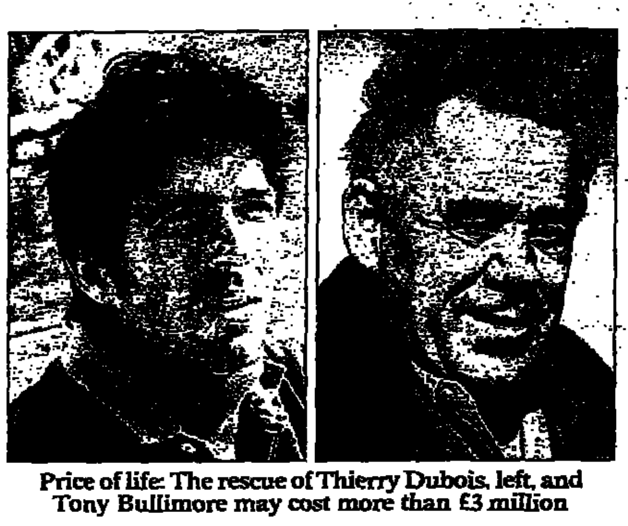
Mr McLachlan said the Government was not counting the cost of the rescue mission and was bound by moral and legal obligations to to go the aid of sailors.

The country is obliged by international treaty to rescue people up to 1500 nautical miles off its coastline whatever the cost. "We have done what is required and we would do it again."

Privately, Australian maritime safety chiefs are annoyed with the Vendée Globe race organisers for allowing competitors to sail so far south. Warwick Smith, the Sports Minister, called on the organisers to change the rules. He wants them to adopt safer sailing routes, where the seas are calmer and more easily accessible to rescue craft.

Mr Smith also wrote to his French counterpart, Guy Drut, seeking a joint approach to international yacht race organisers. This week's operation was the furthest ever undertaken by Australia's air-sea rescue authorities and stretched them to the limit.

Even so the ultimate success of the mission has clearly bathed Australia in glory. Prime Minister John Howard praised the professional efforts of the rescue team. Opposition leader Kim Beazley said: "The rescue missions are a tribute to the skills, determination and bravery of the members of the Australian defence forces and the service people who took part in the rescue operation."



Price of life: The rescue of Thierry Dubois, left, and Tony Bullimore may cost more than £3 million

Unlike the BT Global Challenge round-the-world race, the Vendée Globe has no high-profile insurance sponsor. Mr Bullimore's £500,000 yacht, *Exide Challenger*, was not insured because the race is regarded as one of the most dangerous sporting events in the world and insurers are reluctant to provide cover.

But if lives are in danger in the Southern Ocean again, Australia is certain to go to the rescue again without counting the cost.

TESTED TO THE LIMIT

Tony Bullimore's survival is a distinguished addition to the annals of human endurance. In the pursuit of adventure, or by sheer bad luck, many have found their ability to survive tested to the limits.

- **1914: the explorer Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton and his fellow Antarctic expedition members survived 15 months on the ship *Endurance* when it was cast adrift, crushed by packed ice and buffeted by ice floes.**
- **1942: Poon Lim, a 2nd steward in the Merchant Navy, was cast adrift on a raft in the Atlantic for 133 days when his ship was blown up under enemy fire. He was spotted by aircraft and picked up in April 1943.**
- **1972: 14 Uruguayans survived 80 days in the freezing conditions of the Andes after their light aircraft crashed near the Chilean/Uruguayan border. They resorted to cannibalism to stay alive.**
- **1982: Anna Conrad was buried by an avalanche at a ski resort in northern California but survived for five days by eating snow.**
- **1989: four shipwrecked yachtsmen from New Zealand spent 120 days in the upturned hull of their trimaran in the Pacific. They ate seagulls and raw fish and were eventually washed up on Great Barrier Island, near Auckland.**
- **1992: James Stott survived for 43 days 2,000 feet up a Himalayan rockface. He had only two bars of chocolate.**
- **1994: five soldiers survived for three weeks in the Borneo jungle after going missing on a training exercise. They had two polo mints and a drop of water a day.**

New Year. New Technology. Old price.

MMX intel inside pentium PROCESSOR

Dell have kicked off the new year with an outstanding offer. The Dell Dimension™ XPS M166s and its Intel 166MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ technology is now available for only £1,299 (£1,555.70 inc delivery & VAT). And, for limited period only, we'll give you an extra 16Mb SDRAM for free. So you get the most advanced hardware with no advance in price. And because it comes with new MMX technology, it can run between 10% and 20% faster under today's normal business applications. Call the world's largest direct PC manufacturer** today on 01344 724618 and get this year's technology at last year's prices.

DELL DIMENSION XPS M166s BONUS BUNDLE
- INTEL® 166MHz PENTIUM® PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY
- 16Mb SDRAM + EXTRA 16Mb SDRAM FREE
- 512Kb PIPELINE BURST CACHE
- 2Gb EIDE HARD DRIVE
- STB POWERGRAPH 64 3D PCI GRAPHICS CARD: 2Mb VIDEO MEMORY
- 15" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (13.75" VIEWABLE AREA)
- EIGHT SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE
- MID-SIZED TOWER CHASSIS
- INTEGRATED 16-BIT SOUND AND ACS90 SPEAKERS
- MICROSOFT® WINDOWS 95 & MS OFFICE PROFESSIONAL 95

£1,299 (£1,555.70 incl. delivery & VAT)

FREE* 16MB SDRAM WORTH £120 *LIMITED PERIOD ONLY

DELL®

TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE.
01344 724618
Between 8am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Sat.

*Free offer available only on Dell Dimension XPS M166s Bonus Bundle at time of purchase **Source: IDC

Briton could be transported from big seas to big screen after agent's mid-ocean call to fame

Hollywood beckons for real-life Del Boy

By Adrian Lee, Daniel McGrory and Tim Jones

AMONG the telephone calls Tony Bullimore received on *HMAS Adelaide* yesterday was one from an agent of the Hollywood actor and producer Kevin Costner, interested in making a film about his survival story.

What the agent may not have known is that the entire career of the former Essex barrow boy is the stuff of film legend, though perhaps more suited to Del Boy Trotter than Kevin Costner.

The teenage Bullimore had a yearning for adventure and would constantly play truant from school in Southend-on-Sea with his closest friend, Dave Mathieson. They helped Mr Bullimore's father, Bill, to run market stalls in Romford and Southend. At 15 they launched a wedding photography business on Southend pier. Tony Bullimore was, said Mr Mathieson, "the luckiest, gutsiest man you could meet. He has always survived by his wits, and is a real rough diamond."

He gave up wedding photography after being chased down the road by the angry father of a bride whose pictures had not come out, and spotted an advertisement looking for an experienced sailor to crew a yatch to South Africa. He lied about his experience and set sail, picking up odd jobs as a carpet layer and becoming a black belt at judo. He was asked to try out for the Springboks judo team.

After four years he was persuaded by his family to return to Britain. He could not resist any invitation to take to sea and it was during one voyage to the Caribbean that he met his wife, Lalel, in Kingston, Jamaica.

In 1963 he recognised that the influx of West Indian immigrants offered a business opportunity. He opened the Bamboo Club in the St Paul's area of Bristol and it quickly became a focus for reggae music. Bob Marley was one of the stars who performed there before the club mysteriously burnt down in the mid-1970s.

Stephen Mulvany is Tony Bullimore's nephew, business partner and "Rodney" to his uncle's "Del"

Mr Bullimore's passion for music persuaded him to open the Granary Club in Bristol, a late-night venue known for its eclectic tastes, which closed ten years ago. "Like most things he just got bored and wanted to move on," Mr Mathieson said.

He founded his own company, Bradkeyne International, run from a cramped office in Digbeth, Birmingham, buying up bankrupt stock for resale. Adie McLean, the company's office manager and only other employee, said yesterday: "We shifted everything from toys to shoe polish to cosmetics."

Barry Pickthall, the former *Times* yachting correspondent who sailed with Mr Bullimore in the Round Britain race, said: "He is an absolute Del Boy, except that he comes from Southend, not Peckham. He was always wheeler-dealing." Like Del Boy, he has his own Rodney, his nephew and partner Stephen Mulvany. While Mr Bullimore was taken safely on to *HMAS Adelaide* yesterday, Mr Mulvany was in the tastefully furnished lounge of his uncle's large Victorian house in Westbury Park, Bristol, talking constantly into one of his two mobile telephones.

He emerged briefly to say he that was in the process of making "two heavyweight deals" to sell his uncle's story that would help to pay towards rebuilding his £500,000 yacht. "He put his mortgage and everything on the line so naturally he needs to recoup his losses," Mr Mulvany said.

Among the likely endorsements that Mr Bullimore can expect are the attentions of the top chocolate manufaturers, who were intrigued as to which brand it was that sustained him in his underwater tomb. "He had a sweet tooth, so it could have been anything he could get his hands on," Mr Mulvany said. He added: "We haven't had chance to talk about offers with Tony. We are just thrilled he is alive."

In another Del Boy touch, Mr Bullimore has a fondness for using French words. Mr Pickthall said: "I remember once he walked into a lavish club owned by the Aga Khan in Sardinia. Tony took one look around and said, 'This is very soixante-neuf, isn't it?'

"He is not the most skilled sailor, but he has a tremendous capacity to succeed and he always gave us a laugh."

On another occasion, while struggling to raise the money to sponsor his round-the-world challenge, he was left with boxes of a million and a half toy characters from the television cartoon series *The Simpsons*. "We thought we would be stuck with them forever, but Tony somehow shifted them," Mrs McLean said.

Mr Mathieson insisted that Mr Bullimore "could sell ice cubes to Eskimoes" and recounted how, to rescue a deal to sell baby food to Zaire, Mr Bullimore was summoned for an acrimonious meeting with the Zairean dictator, President Mobutu.

"Mobutu was shouting and Tony, who is only 5ft 3in but can handle himself and fears no-one, said, 'You won't do any business with me until you get some manners.' Mobutu pointed back and said, 'For a white man you have got a big mouth,' but there was mutual respect and the deal was done."

John Lewis, who is secretary of the Royal Western Yacht Club, where Mr Bullimore has been a member for 20 years, said: "He is living proof that this is not a sport just for the privileged. You won't find many braver."

Lalel Bullimore at home yesterday. She met her husband in Kingston, Jamaica

Bob Beggs, a fellow club member and transatlantic yachtsman, said last night: "Tony is always the first to put his hand in his pocket and to congratulate you. Those who perhaps come into this sport through their college or their families would never attempt such a voyage. You have to be a little bit mad like Tony, and a true hero."

He said that Mr Bullimore was famed for his love of tea and curries which were too hot for anyone else on board to eat. After yesterday's rescue, his first words were "Thank God — it's a miracle," followed by a request for a cup of tea.

Another crewmate, Nigel Irens, with whom Mr Bullimore won the Yachtsman of the Year award in 1985, said: "He is a compulsive risk-taker, both in sailing and in business. There are two schools of sailor: the regatta type and the adventurer. Tony is definitely one of the latter.

"He is at his best when the rulebook goes out of the window. For the sort of thing he goes in for, it is a question of whether you have got the balls for it or not."

To win the 1985 accolade, Mr Bullimore climbed the mast of his yacht to make temporary repairs to a broken halyard when his crew member was on the verge of retiring. They went on to win the race. "I was amazed," said Mr Irens, who sailed with Mr Bullimore for four years and is now a boat designer.

Bids by newspapers alone for his story had reached more than £160,000 last night. As the offers poured in, Mr Mulvany said: "We don't know if Tony will say yes to anything. He is his own man. But I suspect he might fancy having Kevin Costner play him in the film. Not bad for a Southend boy."

Leading article, page 21

High seas present ultimate challenge

By Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent

WHY do they do it? It is a question hard not to ask after the dramas of recent days in the Southern Ocean.

The urge to take on solo those untamed forces comes from the same inner source that drives others not just to climb the world's highest peaks, but to do so alone and without oxygen. In sailing, the challenge of the sea is there for anyone to face, but for some, the desire to confront the ultimate goal is overwhelming.

It was the British who started single-handed round-the-world sailing with Sir Francis Chichester, Sir Robin Knox-Johnston and Chay Blyth but the French now dominate with a series of races. The Vendée Globe offers the chance of winning the ultimate contest on the world's most dangerous and unpredictable course. The boat must be kept sailing month after month while it is battered by the elements.

There is also a chance to experience one of the last great freedoms, voyaging through some of the wildest places on earth.

So far the Vendée Globe has remained gloriously free of regulation. The boats have to be monohulls, 50 to 60ft long. Beyond that it is largely up to the designers. The course is almost unrestricted as well, though there are three waypoints which the skippers have to leave to starboard to prevent slipping into the icebergs deep down in the Southern Ocean.

In the first race in 1989 only seven of the 13 starters finished, while in the second, in 1992, 14 started, seven finished and one skipper, the Englishman Nigel Burgess, drowned. This time, halfway through, eight of the 16 who started are out and there have been three rescues.

The huge costs of these operations are placing the race organisers under increasing pressure to further limit the course and the type of boats that can sail it.

Experience told sailor that his best bet was to stay with his boat

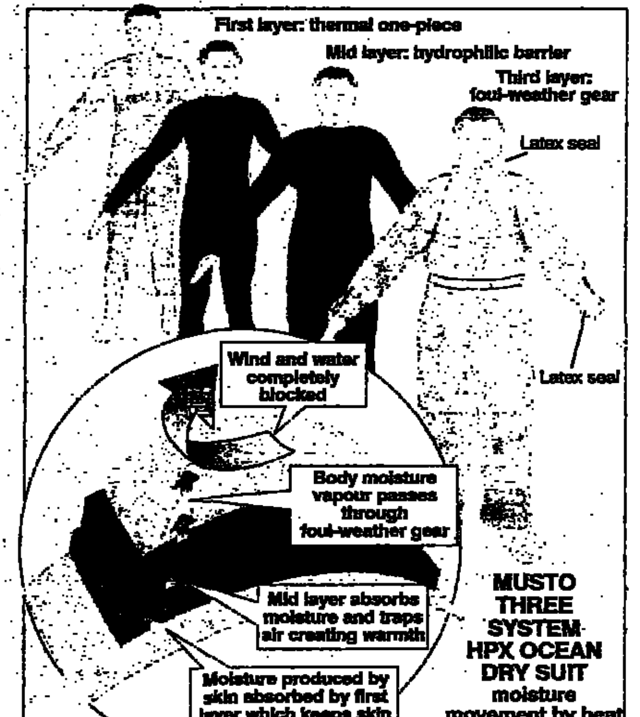
By Edward Gorman

THE secret of Tony Bullimore's survival for five days in the Southern Ocean was his decision not to try to leave his crippled boat.

His 30-odd years of experience of sailing, which has included several perilous capsizes, told him that attempting to leave the hull and get into his liferaft could prove fatal. He put his faith in the realisation that, eventually, someone would come to check the boat to see if he was still in it.

Immediately before the capsize, Mr Bullimore had weathered a storm, which was followed by four days of relative calms when he was able to dry out his boat. It was when the storms returned that the keel of *Exide Challenger* was ripped off, causing the yacht to capsize in seconds.

Because of the high sea, Mr Bullimore is thought to have been strapped into his navigation station when the boat rolled 180 degrees. He may not have had the main hatch shut at that moment and lost the tip of his little finger as he attempted to shut it with water pouring in. He found himself in a dark, noisy, wet and cold upside-down world. The cabin roof windows were now the floor and at least one of them burst open with the pressure of the water, producing a fountain of icy water.


First layer: thermal one-piece
Mid layer: hydrophilic barrier
Third layer: foul-weather gear
Latex seal
Latex seal
Wind and water completely blocked
Body moisture vapour passes through foul-weather gear
Mid layer absorbs moisture and traps air creating warmth
Moisture produced by skin absorbed by first layer which keeps skin dry and warm
MUSTO THREE SYSTEM HPX OCEAN DRY SUIT
moisture movement by heat transfer

Mr Bullimore abandoned his pilot house at the top of the cabin, where the water level was rising, for the main hull lower down, where he seems to have lashed himself into a bunk to try to keep dry. He had no torch to see what he was doing and kept himself alive with nibbles of chocolate and sips of fresh water. Every now and again he dived through the freezing water under the deck to check the lashing on his liferaft, to make sure it had not freed itself, which might convince rescuers he had been swept away.

Mr Bullimore was wearing a British dry suit supplied by Musto, an Essex-based company. That suit and the company's thermal "breathable" underwear and middle-layer clothing are likely to have made a big contribution to his survival, helping to fight hypothermia and frostbite.

The dry suit is designed to provide two to three hours' survival time in water at 5C and includes latex seals around the wrists and neck, a waterproof zip and integral waterproof feet. The "breathable" middle layers are designed to allow perspiration to diffuse rather than form an icy cold film next to the skin.

The third part of the equation was the emergency positioning indicating radio beacons (EPIRB) which all the competitors in the Vendée Globe were required to carry and which have become indispensable in mid-ocean rescues. There is a range of beacons made by companies around the world but they all work on the same principle. The beacons can be switched off or set to transmit either an alert signal or a distress signal via satellite to race headquarters. Some can be set to go off automatically when they are immersed in water and many are designed to transmit for weeks.

Mr Bullimore had one beacon on the stern of his boat — swept away in the capsize — and another in his liferaft, which was not activated. The third was with him in his upside-down cabin. That initially transmitted an alarm signal before he switched it to distress mode, something which helped to convince the Australian authorities he was alive and in his boat. Knowing that his EPIRB was working, with its light flashing continuously at him, will have gone a long way to convincing Mr Bullimore that eventually he would be found.

Will to live that marks a survivor

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE will to survive is an amazingly powerful force. Afflictions that kill some people leave others living a full life. Equally some patients turn their face to the wall when confronted by disaster, and die quickly from causes that can never be demonstrated at post-mortem examination.

However, a love of excitement and drama should not be equated with an ability to survive hazardous adventures. When people apply for apparently dangerous tasks it may be no more than a desire to be at the centre of attention. People such as Tony Bullimore — self-reliant, answerable to nobody else, able to detach themselves from their domestic background and indifferent to what others think about this — are as hard mentally as they are physically. A successful adventurer must be decisive, calm, and still able to think logically when tired, wet and depressed.

The unfathomable will to keep going makes it impossible to predict how long somebody with a terminal illness will live.

Research shows that the determination to stay alive for the festival of the Passover results in fewer deaths among male Jews before the event, and an increase immediately afterwards. This Christmas one woman of my acquaintance was insistent that she would not die until after she had had a final Christmas with her family. She died on December 27.

Conversely, other patients, once told that they have an incurable complaint, will die within days.

MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS
A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY

MERCURY TO THE USA:
£1.92
BT TO THE USA:
£2.81
(NO CHANGE THERE, THEN.)

Even after all the changes in BT's prices, one thing hasn't changed.
Mercury SmartCall is *still* between 20% and 39% cheaper for international calls. For details **FreeCall 0500 500 366.**

Mercury SmartCall
You don't have to be a genius to see how much you'll save.

Prices quoted to the USA based on a 10 minute economy call. Prices and savings correct as at 31 December 1996, compared with BT's basic rate for international calls of 5 minutes or more, 6pm-8am weekdays and any time at weekends. Savings available for a quarterly fee of £5.75 (inc VAT).
http://www.mercury.co.uk

WE MAY HAVE HAD OUR CRITICS, BUT NOW THE WHOLE WORLD'S BEHIND US.

LOTTERIES CONTRIBUTING MOST TO GOOD CAUSES AND GOVERNMENT DUTY TAXES:*	
1. The National Lottery (U.K.)	**£2.3 billion**
2. Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank Lottery (Japan)	**£2.0 billion**
3. ONLAE (Spain)	**£1.3 billion**
4. La Française des Jeux (France)	**£1.0 billion**

*Source: La Fleur's Lottery World, The Worldwide Lottery Efficiency Study 1996, based on the top 30 lotteries worldwide ranked by govt. profit.

As you can see from the above table, Camelot raises more for Good Causes and government than any other lottery operator in the world. Indeed, we are currently raising on average £34.5 million a week. So it isn't just this week's National Lottery winners who are on top of the world.

CAMELOT

BRINGING YOU THE WORLD'S LEADING LOTTERY

About 28% of The National Lottery proceeds will, over the period of Camelot's operating licence, go to the Good Causes as designated by Parliament, but this funding is not a substitute for direct donations. Camelot Group plc operates The National Lottery under licence from the Director General of The National Lottery. © Camelot Group plc

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Ingenious keepers battle cold and beastly boredom as all but the hardiest animals are stuck indoors

It's too cool for cats as big chill grips the zoo

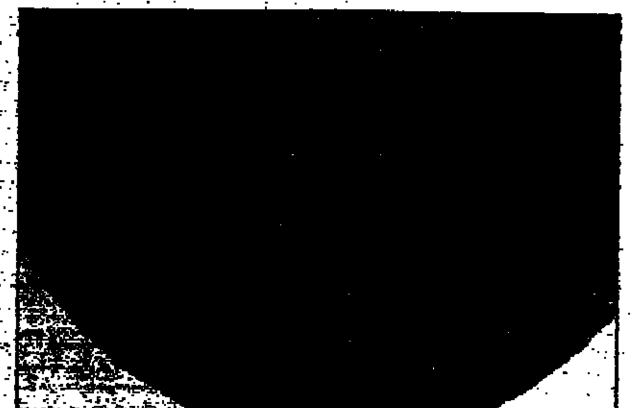
By Michael Hornsby

FOR the penguins and the timber wolves, it's a bit like a home from home. But the snowy wastes of London Zoo are proving less than hospitable for species from warmer climes. As temperatures remained at freezing point yesterday, keepers were at full stretch to keep spirits up and bodies warm.

The Asian lions Kamal, 3, and Ruchi, 9, have been forced to remain indoors for nine days because the 20ft moat that separates them from the few hardy visitors to their enclosure is frozen.

Matt Hennessey, 51, a senior keeper in the big cats section, said: "We have to keep them in because they could try to walk over the water, which would not be wise for public safety or their own. They could easily fall through the ice and drown. There's no point in breaking the ice, because it only freezes over again."

Kamal and Ruchi stayed close to the electrically heated panels in their indoor den, rising only occasionally to peer out of the window like cricketers from the pavilion on a wet day waiting for a break in the weather. Around the corner, a forlorn flock of Chilean pink flamingoes remained on single legs to conserve heat and energy, the water level in their pool having been lowered as a safety precaution. They are being fed in their sheds because the pellets which they eat freeze in the water.


Ruchi the lioness peers out of the enclosure where it has been forced to stay in the warm for nine days

But, as the zoo counts the cost of extra straw and increased heating bills, some animals are thriving on the novelty of the coldest winter there since 1962-63.

Congi, the six-year-old rare Vietnamese gibbon, which spent its early years as a pet in Jordan, has never seen snow before and thinks it's wonderful. It is the only primate at the zoo to have forsaken the 70F comfort of life indoors to swing among the snow flakes in its suspended plastic tub — happy to chatter to anyone fancying a conversation.

Keith Lloyd, its keeper, said: "She loves it. She's like a child seeing snow for the first time. It's difficult to persuade her back into the warm."

The chimps and gorillas have commanded a large proportion of the extra supplies of straw with which to amuse themselves and keep warm. Cardboard boxes, paper bags and plastic bottles of diluted, vitamin-rich blackcurrant juice have also been supplied as playthings to stave off the boredom.

Little needs to be done, however, to keep up the spirits of the Asian elephants, even though their regular walks through the "Arc in the Park" have been suspended in case they slip on the icy walkways and injure themselves.

Dilberta, 17, Layang-Layang, 14, and Mya, 15, scoop up the snow with their trunks and frisk with their keepers like children enjoying giant ice lollies. "It's a wonderful novelty for them," Brian Harman, the head keeper, said. "They like snowballs being thrown at them, and if we build a snowman, they take great delight in knocking it over."

Josephine, the hornbill, who at 50 is the oldest creature in the zoo, was said to be coping well with the weather. "She is keeping dry and warm in the parrot house and anyone expecting her obituary will hopefully have a long while to wait," a spokeswoman said.

Jo Gipps, the director of London Zoo, said: "The cold weather doesn't really affect the animals at the zoo. Those that like the cold can go out while those that are sensitive are keeping nice and warm."

☐ More than 10,000 reindeer have starved to death in Russia's remote Chukotsky Peninsula since freak weather conditions cut off the herds from their traditional winter pastures. A long rainfall followed by freezing temperatures covered traditional winter grazing areas of the tundra beneath a thick sheet of ice.

Local herders have attempted to drive the remainder of the reindeer to less affected areas, but much of their livelihood and their food source has been wiped out. The herds have also been attacked by wolves.

GILL ALLEN

The Asian elephants have had great fun scooping up the snow in their trunks

Man killed as snow hits travel in South

By Michael Hornsby

SNOW, ice and freezing temperatures caused traffic chaos, disrupted airports, and inflicted further hardships on wildlife yesterday.

The worst conditions were in south and southeast England, where up to four inches of snow fell in Kent and Sussex. Western Scotland was the warmest region, with temperatures of 4C. The coldest spot was Luton, at -1C.

Snow on the runway closed Luton airport for more than two hours. Seven aircraft were diverted to other airports. Stansted airport in Essex was closed for 45 minutes while the runway was cleared.

In Surrey, a man was killed and ten people injured in early-morning accidents involving more than 30 vehicles on the Hog's Back stretch of the A31 between Farnham and Guildford and on the A3 between Hindhead and Ripley. In Somerset, accidents blocked the A39 between Williton and Washford and the M5 near Highbridge.

In Kent, the AA took up to 2,000 calls an hour. The county's ambulance service dealt with around 500 calls an hour, mainly from people who had slipped on ice or been in road accidents.

Weekend shopping, page 10
Forecast, page 24

Oxford yields to campaign against Said school site

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

OXFORD UNIVERSITY has abandoned its controversial plan to site a £40 million business school on a sports ground in the city centre.

The decision, taken yesterday, followed widespread opposition among dons and city councillors to the use of the university sports field for the Wafic Rida Said business school. The Mansfield Road site was the university's preferred option. Mr Said, who has pledged £20 million towards the project, has given the university until June 21 to find a new site.

The Syrian-born businessman said in November that he was reconsidering his donation after Congregation, the dons' parliament, voted 259 to 214 against the proposal. A survey funded by Mr Said for the dons' debate concluded that the sports ground was the only feasible location.

Yesterday, university sources said that four sites were being considered but none was owned by the university. Buying land could add considerably to the cost of the scheme. Sites now under consideration are thought to include the Radcliffe Infirmary, which is due to move to the main John Radcliffe Hospital site, and car parks at Oxford's railway station and in Worcester Road. However, the hospital is unlikely to move before the planned opening of the business school next year.

Yesterday's decision avoided the need for a postal vote of all 3,200 university members on the use of the former Merton College field, which was given to the university in 1964 provided it remain a sports ground "in perpetuity".

Mike Woodin, a lecturer in psychology and a Green Party city councillor who led opposition to the plans, said: "I am delighted that we have forced the university to keep its promise not to develop the Mansfield Road site. This saves an important open space and the staff sports club."

He said dons remained wary of the scheme because a majority of business school trustees were appointed by Mr Said, not the university.

A university spokesman said: "The University of Oxford and Mr Wafic Said and his fellow trustees of the Said Business School Foundation have jointly agreed that it is not practicable to proceed with the proposal to build new premises on the Mansfield Road site for the university's business school. They have not yet identified an alternative site which would be suitable and feasible but have agreed that the search should continue until the end of the Trinity term. A final decision will then be taken on whether it is possible to proceed.

"The university and the benefactor remain firmly committed to the goal of developing a world class business school on a central site in Oxford."

Edward Bickham, a spokesman for Mr Said, said it was a joint decision to pull out of Mansfield Road to avoid the rancour of a postal vote and further divisive debate. "We had already received hostile signals to the plan from the city council. We wanted to get back on to a reasonable timetable and this seemed the best way forward."

The university has raised £8 million towards its £20 million share of the project.

Struggling football club signs up a lord

By Paul Wilkinson

NOT since the earliest days of football, when it was still a gentleman's game played by gentlemen, has a team boasted a lord among its players.

Alnwick Town FC hopes that the arrival of Lord James Percy will lift them from their position of next to bottom of the Northern League. Lord James, whose older brother is the Duke of Northumberland, yesterday signed playing forms with the club in the family's home town.

Mac Belisle, his new manager, thinks the big striker could play an important part in dragging his side up the second divison of the league.

Lord James, 31, a bachelor, was more modest: "I will have to work on my fitness. I used to play at university ten years ago and it would be great to bang in a few goals for Town. I am just worried they might tear my contract up when they have seen me in action at training."

Alnwick's compact St James's Park ground was built in the 1870s on the Duke's land in the shadow of Alnwick Castle. The present Duke is the club president, but Lord James will be just another player when he pulls on the team's black and white striped shirt. He insists team mates use his nickname, Jimmy.

John Common, the Alnwick chairman, said: "Despite having a member of the aristocracy on the books we are still desperate for cash and Jimmy will have to understand he won't be getting a playing fee or win bonus. I dare say he will have to put up with a bit of ribbing from the lads, but knowing him he will give as good as he gets."

A levels wrongly upgraded

Continued from page 1

conclusions to halt rumours about the severity of marking in English and the impact of a new examining code.

The report, by five experienced scrutineers, found so many failings that "it was not possible to have confidence in the validity and reliability of the examinations". Although no grades will be altered, Dr Tate conceded that the inflated scores might have denied candidates who took other syllabuses their rightful university places. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said the board's conduct had been "wholly unacceptable" and added weight to the case for reviewing the examining system.

The Oxford and Cambridge Examinations and Assessment Council (OCEAC), which is now responsible for the syllabus, said it fully accepted the criticism. However, John Saunders, who chaired the examiners before resigning last July, denied any impropriety. He said it was a "total lie" that the team had been unduly influenced by candidates coming from famous independent schools.

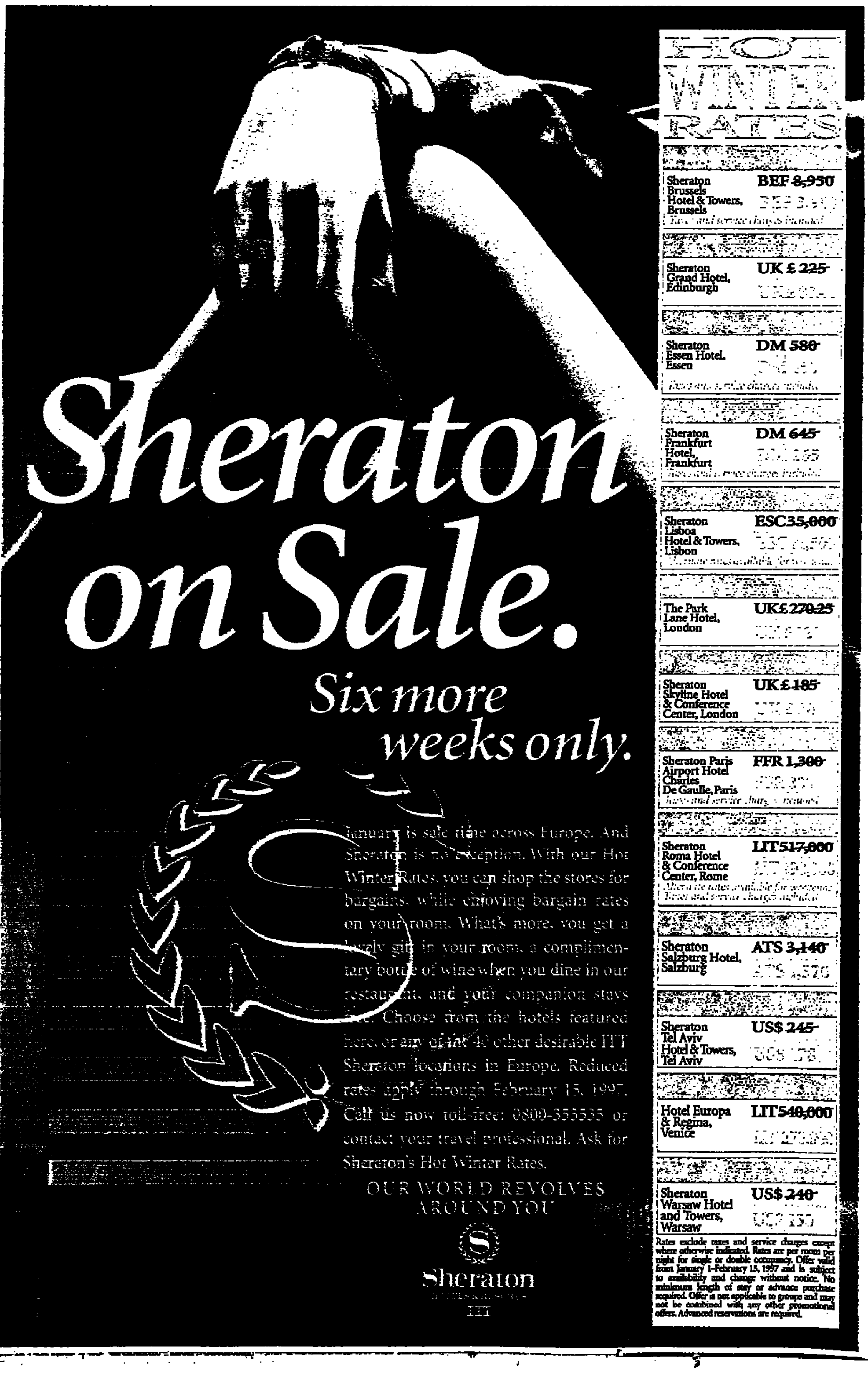
He admitted that some grades had been increased without reference to the papers. Time constraints were such that if particular examiners were found to be out of line with the norm, their marks would be increased by a set amount across the board.

At a press briefing yesterday, Dr Tate said: "The way the examination process was conducted was unworthy of an examination board." He had demanded and received assurances that there would be no repetition in any of the board's syllabuses, but no further action was possible.

A spokesman for the Independent Schools Information Service said: "This is a very disturbing report. But there is no evidence of partiality being shown to independent schools." State school head teachers, however, were outraged. John Dunford, head of Durham Johnston Comprehensive School and former president of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "I am appalled that my students may have been put at a disadvantage. It is shocking if candidates from one sector have been given advantages in the competitive world of university admissions."

Education, page 39

Cheaper
Car
Insurance
ADMIRAL
Call now
0800 600 800



January is sale time across Europe. And Sheraton is no exception. With our Hot Winter Rates, you can shop the stores for bargains, while enjoying bargain rates on your room. What's more, you get a lovely gift in your room, a complimentary bottle of wine when you dine in our restaurant, and your companion stays free. Choose from the hotels featured here, or any of the 40 other desirable ITT Sheraton locations in Europe. Reduced rates apply through February 15, 1997. Call us now toll-free: 0800-353535 or contact your travel professional. Ask for Sheraton's Hot Winter Rates.

OUR WORLD REVOLVES AROUND YOU

Sheraton
ITT

HOT WINTER RATES

Sheraton Brussels Hotel & Towers, Brussels BEF ~~8,950~~ [illegible]
Taxes and service charges included

Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh UK £ ~~225~~ [illegible]

Sheraton Essen Hotel, Essen DM ~~580~~ [illegible]
Taxes and service charges included

Sheraton Frankfurt Hotel, Frankfurt DM ~~645~~ [illegible]
Taxes and service charges included

Sheraton Lisboa Hotel & Towers, Lisbon ESC ~~35,000~~ [illegible]
[illegible]

The Park Lane Hotel, London UK£ ~~270.25~~ [illegible]

Sheraton Skyline Hotel & Conference Center, London UK £ ~~185~~ [illegible]

Sheraton Paris Airport Hotel Charles De Gaulle, Paris FFR ~~1,300~~ [illegible]
Taxes and service charges included

Sheraton Roma Hotel & Conference Center, Rome LIT ~~517,000~~ [illegible]
[illegible]
Taxes and service charges included

Sheraton Salzburg Hotel, Salzburg ATS ~~3,140~~ [illegible]

Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel & Towers, Tel Aviv US$ ~~245~~ [illegible]

Hotel Europa & Regina, Venice LIT ~~540,000~~ [illegible]

Sheraton Warsaw Hotel and Towers, Warsaw US$ ~~240~~ [illegible]

Rates exclude taxes and service charges except where otherwise indicated. Rates are per room per night for single or double occupancy. Offer valid from January 1-February 15, 1997 and is subject to availability and change without notice. No minimum length of stay or advance purchase required. Offer is not applicable to groups and may not be combined with any other promotional offers. Advanced reservations are required.

Cabinet told to ensure more jobs for the girls

■ *More women than ever are serving in positions of influence on public bodies and committees. The Government is determined to increase their number even further, Valerie Elliott writes*

CABINET ministers have been told to select women for one in three of all appointments to public bodies and ministerial committees, but some ministers are aiming higher.

The instructions have been issued by Roger Freeman, the Public Services Minister, but it is clear that some ministers are already helping to champion women. Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, are the men doing most to help women into public life, according to a Whitehall document. They are even beating their two female Cabinet colleagues, Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, and Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, have the lowest proportion of women on departmental committees: 4.7 per cent at the Ministry of Defence, and 9 per cent at the Ministry of Agriculture. But every department is being urged to do better.

Mr Freeman said yesterday: "We are not yet in a position where, statistically, one in every three public appointees is a woman. I want to reach that position quickly, and to go beyond it. It's not positive discrimination, nor an official target, but I believe it's a convenient benchmark and as a minimum it's sensible and achievable."

The strategy was drawn up after monitoring the first five years of Whitehall achievements in relation to Opportunity 2000, the Business in the Community scheme to help women in the workplace. Although women now fill 31 per cent of all public appointments, against 23 per cent five years ago, Mr Freeman has asked each department to increase its number of women and members of ethnic minorities. At the Scottish Office, Mr Forsyth appoints the highest number of women — 43 per cent — and wants to increase the proportion to 46.

Mr Howard wants the Home Office to ensure that women make up 45 per cent of all members of public bodies by September 2000 — the figure is 40 per cent now — and to maintain the ethnic minority proportion at 16 per cent. He also wants to include at least one woman on every shortlist.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, wishes to boost the number of women on public bodies from the present 35 per cent to 40 per cent by 2000, and to ensure that at least one woman sits on every body.

Mrs Shephard's Department for Education and Employment has 36 per cent female representation on bodies and committees, but would like to increase that to 45 per cent.

At the National Heritage Department, Mrs Bottomley has 26 per cent of women on public bodies, and is aiming for 35 per cent. Mr Portillo hopes to boost the low showing at the MoD to 10 per cent or 15 per cent by 2000, but Mr Hogg does not publish a target figure.

The Whitehall rankings for appointing women to public bodies and committees, with 1991 figures in brackets: Scottish Office 43.2 per cent (35 per cent); Home Office 40.7 (38); Health 37.7 (26); Education and Employment 36.2 (previously separate departments: Employment 24; Education 20); Northern Ireland 35.5 (23); Social Security 35.3 (27); Treasury 28.3 (13); Heritage 26.1 (16); Trade and Industry 24.7 (14); Cabinet Office 22.9 (10); Environment 22.5 (19); Welsh Office 22.1 (18); Lord Chancellor's Department 21.9 (20.4); Foreign Office 21.6 (19); Transport 17.1 (12); *Agriculture 9 (5); Defence 4.7 (5).*

Mother blames lack of council help for Rikki Neave's death

By Dominic Kennedy

Ruth Neave and her son, Rikki, who was killed while playing truant; the mother claimed Cambridgeshire social services had done little to help her look after him

THE mother of six-year-old Rikki Neave, who was found strangled near his home after she neglected him for years, yesterday blamed social workers for failing to answer her cries for help.

Ruth Neave, 28, issued a statement from prison where she is serving seven years for neglecting her children, as a report said Rikki had been failed by social workers and management in Cambridgeshire County Council's social services department. The report by The Bridge childcare consultancy made 29 recommendations for new procedures, although the council said some were already in practice.

Neave, who was cleared of the boy's murder last year, called for a public inquiry and blamed social workers for failing to take Rikki off her hands temporarily. He had been playing truant from school when he was killed and his naked body dumped on wasteland in Peterborough.

Her solicitor, Paul Bacon, said: "There seemed to have been a considerable breakdown in communication. She was asking for help and it never came. If she had been given respite care with Rikki, he would not have been wandering the streets that day."

Neave was "very enthusiastic" about one of the report's recommendations, that people who had been in care as children should be allocated a social worker if they became young parents. She was 17 and living in a home when she became a mother and had been in and out of foster homes since she was two.

At her trial, the court was told that Neave had been persistently cruel to Rikki and his three sisters. She had squirted washing-up liquid into her son's mouth, written "idiot" on his forehead and once dangled him over a bridge.

The Bridge Child Care Development Service said that in April 1994 Rikki's name was placed on the child protection register but, although he had been bruised, no medical examination was made, his child protection investigation was never completed, there was no comprehensive assessment of his needs and a child psychologist's opinion was ignored.

Rikki's files kept going missing and appeared to have been lost for up to two years before his death in November 1994. Cambridgeshire social services was being reorganised in 1994 and there was an unusually high number of disputes among the Peterborough East team responsible for Rikki.

Gordon Lister, chief executive of Cambridgeshire County Council, was invited at a press conference yesterday to say sorry to Rikki's relatives. He responded: "We have great sympathy with the family."

The former director of social services, Tad Kubisa, has retired. Two social workers were suspended immediately after the trial and another on the eve of this report's publication.

The family of Rikki's father, Trevor Harvey, are seeking a public inquiry to establish why the wider family was not considered in the handling of Rikki's case.

Sir Herbert Laming, Chief Inspector of Social Services for the Government, has given Cambridgeshire three months to implement the report's recommendations. These include seeking children's own opinions, improving file-keeping and following guidelines on risk assessment.

NEW REPORT, SAME OLD FINDINGS

Children's charities said last night that little had been learnt from a series of inquries into how officialdom had failed children who died while in the care of local authorities (Richard Ford writes).

John Rea Price, director of the National Children's Bureau, said: "More or less the same points come up in each inquiry. It's the same story. The folks on the ground don't talk to each other because of their preoccupation with their own immediate problems."

Many of the criticisms made 25 years ago during the inquiry into the death of seven-year-old Maria Colwell had continued to appear in later investigations. They highlight inexperienced officials, poor communication between agencies and departments, poor record-keeping, overworked social workers and, at times, too much adherence to ideology in place of common sense.

Have your say.

If you're with the Woolwich, very important voting papers are being sent to you. It's your chance to have your say in its future.

Make sure you cast your vote. Send it to us as soon as possible or attend the special general meeting to vote in person.

Your vote has probably never mattered so much.

The voting papers and an explanatory document will be sent to members of the Woolwich Building Society who will be entitled to vote under the Building Societies Act 1986 and the Society's Rules. The document will contain important information about the conversion of the Woolwich into a bank and full details of entitlement to vote in person or by proxy through the post. Any decision on voting should be based solely on information contained in the document.

The Tory club that's ready for turning

By Lin Jenkins

A CONSERVATIVE club is considering dropping its affiliation to the Tories in an attempt to improve its popularity. Members of the club in Ilfracombe, Devon, have been asked to vote on the issue after numbers fell from 700 to 400.

The plan to alter the name to the Ilfracombe Club has saddened the National Association of Conservative Clubs. Ken Hargreaves, secretary of the association, said changing would not necessarily improve matters since such clubs normally remained known by their long-established names.

Members did not have to be Conservatives. "But I would caution that while dropping the word might attract new people, it may work two ways and they lose the people who join only because it is the Conservative Club," Mr Hargreaves said.

Edward Turner, club secretary, said there were no political connotations in the change. "If it was called Uncle Henry's Club and we changed it to Uncle Thomas's, it would be the same."

He said most members joined to have somewhere to drink, play snooker or billiards or to use the skittle alley. "The simple fact is that we face a lot of competition in the town for the people who might join. We have to find out how we can improve our share of the business."

MPs back Ashdown on Labour alliance

By Arthur Leathley

LIBERAL Democrat divisions widened yesterday over moves to develop closer ties with the Labour Party.

Opponents of cross-party discussions looked increasingly isolated as other MPs enthusiastically backed Paddy Ashdown's drive to influence Labour thinking. MPs led by Liz Lynne, the MP for Rochdale, have criticised the party leadership for becoming involved in extensive discussions with Labour over constitutional and electoral reform, saying that such an alliance would strip the party of its independence.

However, some colleagues say that an alliance offers the party its best opportunity to influence the pace and extent of devolution and reforms to the House of Lords, as well as of bringing in a freedom of information Act.

Emma Nicholson, the former Tory MP, said that Ms Lynne was mistaken and was swayed by "doorstep problems" in Rochdale, where the two parties were locked in a bitter contest: "I feel in my bones that, without a Liberal Democrat partnership, a Labour government will not be strong enough in its political will to achieve these changes."

Talks between the parties are expected to be completed next month, but they face substantial problems over the Liberal Democrats' demand for Tony Blair to commit himself to electoral reform.

'Demon Eyes' posters win advertising award

By Alexandra Frean, media correspondent

THE Conservative Party's controversial "Demon Eyes" posters have won the 1996 Campaign of the Year award run by the advertising industry magazine *Campaign*.

The campaign, featuring a picture of the Labour leader Tony Blair with two sinister eyes superimposed on his face under the slogan "New Labour . . . New Danger", cost the Tory party £125,000 but generated an estimated £5 million of free publicity in terms of press and broadcast coverage, according to the magazine.

Stefano Hatfield, Editor of *Campaign*, said: "The ad set out to capitalise on the undercurrent of doubt about Tony Blair's personality — does he smile too much and can you trust him? — and it succeeded."

Although the actor whose eyes were used in the campaign subsequently complained of the use to which they were put, the controversy surrounding the advertisement was seen as a key to its success. The Advertising Standards Authority subsequently ruled that the poster was offensive to Mr Blair and asked the Conservative Party to withdraw it, generating yet more publicity for the party.

Brittan outlines risks of two-speed Europe

Sir Leon Brittan gave warning yesterday that John Major's call for a two-speed European Union could leave Britain trailing in the wake of France and Germany.

Addressing Conservatives in Bristol, Britain's senior European Commissioner said: "The risk is that a small group of countries forge ahead into new areas of activity, leaving the rest behind, and, worst of all, the leading groups would have a disproportionate influence. That would amount to the division of the European Union into two, and an effective hegemony by a small group. Exactly the outcome that Britain has for so long sought to avoid."

Protest at Gallagher caution

An all-party group of MPs and peers yesterday protested to the Home Secretary over the Oasis singer Liam Gallagher receiving no more than a police caution for possessing cocaine. Tim Rathbone, Conservative chairman of the Parliamentary Drugs Misuse Group, wrote to Michael Howard that Gallagher's "lenient" treatment would "bring the law into disrepute" and that the case was particularly serious because he was seen as an example by young people.

Gardiner's fresh challenge

Sir George Gardiner's hopes of remaining MP for Reigate suffered another blow yesterday after it emerged that more than 350 local Tories had signed a motion of no confidence in him. Many of them have rejoined the party so that they can vote against the veteran Euro-sceptic later this month: more than 100 left last June when Sir George defeated an attempt to deselect him. His opponents hope that if he loses he will feel morally obliged to stand aside.

£500 fine over Hawick ride

One of the leading opponents of women taking part in Hawick Common Riding was fined £500 after a sheriff found him guilty of spitting at a woman rider and swearing at other supporters. John Rudkin, 50, a local councillor, had denied breaching the peace on June 1 when four women joined the all-male ride through Hawick to Denholm. He was sentenced by Jedburgh Sheriff Court after a hearing last month.

MoD 'could save millions'

The Ministry of Defence could save £27 million a year with more efficient use of electricity, gas and water, according to Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor-General. It could save nearly £2 million by simply checking power and water bills. He praised the MoD for reducing its energy use by 20 per cent in five years but said there was still "significant scope" for further savings on the £180 million bill for power and water.

Don quits over fake degrees

The principal of a university college has resigned after colleagues unearthed discrepancies in his *Who's Who* listing of academic and other achievements. Duane Wade-Hampton Arnold, 43, Principal of St Chad's College at Durham University, had been on leave of absence since the autumn. However, his entry in the 1997 *Who's Who*, published yesterday, still includes one of the bogus degrees, despite checks with the university.

Widow appeals over baby

Diane Blood, 31, the widow seeking to have her dead husband's baby, takes her case to the Court of Appeal on Monday. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority banned her from using his frozen sperm because she did not have his written permission. An unnamed widow with such consent is expecting twins. She is thought to be the first to become pregnant after sperm from her late husband was injected into her eggs.

Wakeham keeps press role

Lord Wakeham has agreed to stay on as chairman of the Press Complaints Commission until the end of 1999. The decision to extend his contract, which was to have expired at the end of 1997, had the full backing of Presbof, the newspaper industry board which funds the PCC. Lord Wakeham is widely considered in the industry as well-suited to fending off statutory controls on the press.

Dog-lovers spurn Lassie

Gone are the days of Lassie, Rover, Ginger and Tiddles: six out of ten of dogs' names most often chosen by pet-owners and five out of ten of the favourite cats' names also appear among the 50 most popular names for babies. The only traditional pet's name among the top ten, compiled by the pet insurers PetPlan, was Tigger. The favourite dogs' name was Max, and the favourite cats' name was Charlie.

MERCURY A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY

MERCURY TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND:

£3.56

BT TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND:

£4.65

(IT'S A G'DAY TO THE FOLKS BACK HOME)

Even after all the changes in BT's prices, it's still cheaper to say G'Day down under with Mercury SmartCall. In fact, you can save between 20% and 39% on international calls. For details FreeCall 0500 500 366.

Mercury SmartCall

You don't have to be a genius to see how much you'll save.

هكذا من الأصل

'I am 99 per cent certain we are going back,' Virgin chief declares after winning family's support

Bullish Branson plans to reach for the skies again

By Andrew Pierce

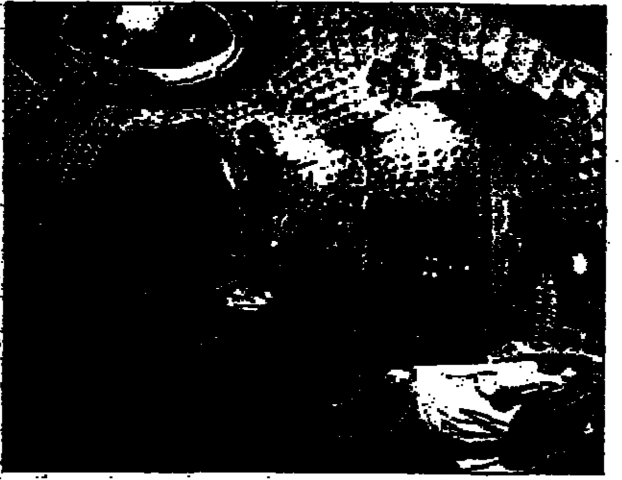
RICHARD BRANSON flew home yesterday and revealed that he would return to Morocco for a third bid to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon.

The businessman, undaunted by the near-fatal collapse of Tuesday's voyage, secured warm support from his wife and children within hours of the emergency landing in the Algerian desert.

Mr Branson, speaking to *The Times* at the London control centre of the *Virgin Challenger*, said: "I enjoy life, but I want to try again. I want to do it. I am 99 per cent certain we are going back. But we have to ensure we have the resources to make it practically and technically possible."

Mr Branson disclosed that the crew lost control as the balloon lost height because the sealed helium bubble inside it, which was supposed to provide the buoyancy, cooled too quickly. The sun heated the helium during the day but the three small propane gas burners used at night were either turned on too late or were not powerful enough.

Mr Branson, who arrived on a private jet from Algiers, where he was a guest of the Government, said: "We discussed at length the technology of heating the helium on the flight home. I'm confident we can get round the problem. Once we have, I'm sure we will be going back." The Virgin team is already examining whether it can create a more efficient heating system or whether the fabric of the balloon's envelope can be made more heat-absorbent.



Richard Branson in the *Virgin Challenger* capsule before the flight which nearly ended in disaster

Mr Branson was home last night for dinner with his wife Joan, 50, and their two children, Sam, 11, and Alex, 14. Mrs Branson, who had previously been opposed to the expedition, is prepared to support her husband if the helium issue can be resolved. Mr Branson added: "We would return to Marrakesh. It is the ideal setting." The Moroccan Government has already invited the Virgin team.

Mr Branson paid tribute to the courage of Alex Ritchie, 52, the last-minute stand-in who clambered on top of the capsule at 6,000ft to dump the cylinders and halt *Challenger*'s precipitate descent.

Mr Branson said: "He is even cooler than I thought. If anyone was going to get the cylinders undone it was Alex. He did it in temperatures of -60. I think he saved our lives."

Asked his thoughts at the time, he said: "It is hard to be confident when you are heading for the ground at speeds of up to 2,000ft a minute. I remember thinking, 'If we get out of this alive, I will never do it again'. Three hours later, when we were sitting in the spectacular Sahara, I was not so sure." Mr Ritchie, a mechanical engineer, said: "I have a well-developed sense of preservation. But I was glad it was dark and I could not see the ground. I might have fumbled it. In a moment of crisis you do not think about the consequences."

Mr Branson denied reports that the balloon had consumed too much helium on take-off. But he confirmed that early into the flight over the Atlas mountains they had been alerted by technicians on the ground that they had omitted to unlock the safety mechanism to release the propane gas burners if they had needed to offload ballast.

Per Lindstrand, the second member of the crew, who designed and built the balloon, said: "The safety coupling was a problem at the launch site. It may have been human error."

Mr Branson, who has ploughed millions of pounds into two failed circumnavigation attempts, made a relatively inexpensive mistake on board when he dumped the crew's food and emergency supplies. He said: "I have just discovered there was $2,000 [about £1,200] in one of the emergency packs. It's now lying somewhere in the desert."

Mr Branson paying tribute to Alex Ritchie, who risked his life to save the balloon

The crew has been invited to the launch in Switzerland at the weekend of the *Breitling Orbiter* balloon, which is also attempting to circumnavigate the globe. Mr Branson said: "We will be delighted to be there. If they beat us to it, I will take my hat off to them. But we might try to do it even faster next year."

At the end of the press conference, Mr Ritchie was embarrassed to be presented by the Breitling company with one of their £2,000 watches. He had said the day before that he had thrown his out of the balloon in the race to lose ballast. "It was just a wind-up," he sheepishly confessed.

Mr Branson paid tribute to the round-the-world yachtsman, Tony Bullimore, who was found alive yesterday in the Southern Ocean. "He is typical of the same British spirit of adventure which drove the *Virgin Challenger* crew," he said.

Leading article, page 21

Ballooning craze takes flight at auction

By Dalya Alberge

A PRIVATE collection of 18th-century fans, sewing kits and boxes decorated with images that reflect a ballooning craze which took off in the 1780s is to be sold this month.

The collection, to be auctioned on January 30, traces the history of the sport. A French portable wooden sundial commemorates June 4, 1783, when the Montgolfier Brothers first demonstrated a balloon, and a French ivory snuff box shows the first human flight in November that year by the Marquis d'Arlandes, who persuaded Louis XVI that he should be allowed to make the trip. The king had decreed that only condemned men should take such a risk. The objects are estimated at about £1,800 each.

Although a law in Paris forbade any man from taking "young female persons" in a balloon "in case anything untoward happened", the sport remained fashionable for about 18 months. Alexander Crumb Ewing of Bonhams, the auctioneers, explained that as the craze died, so the souvenirs were discarded. "Today, they are extremely rare and we are fortunate that this collection is so rich in contemporary works."

Tonsil test offers early diagnosis of beef-link CJD

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

SCIENTISTS believe they have found a simple test to give early diagnosis of the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which is linked to eating beef. At present, CJD can be diagnosed with certainty only after death.

The discovery will show whether the disease is spreading and which patients with early signs of dementia would respond to treatment. The test involves removing a small piece of tissue from the tonsils, an easy and safe procedure which can be done under local anaesthetic.

Professor John Collinge and colleagues at Imperial College and St Mary's Hospital, London, report in *The Lancet* that they have found a prion protein characteristic of the new strain of CJD in a tonsil sample taken from a 35-year-old woman who died of the disease.

The prion protein was discovered by the same team last October in the brains of people who died with the disease. It provided evidence of a link with eating beef because it showed that the new variant of CJD is different from other versions but virtually identical to BSE.

Although there is currently no treatment for CJD, confirming the diagnosis is important because in its early stages the symptoms are similar to other degenerative diseases which are treatable. The only available means of diagnosis before death is by brain biopsy, a dangerous and unreliable operation to remove a piece of brain tissue.

Professor Collinge said it was too soon to predict how many cases of the new strain of CJD there would be, but if an epidemic ensued a simple diagnostic test would be essential to monitor its progress. He added: "In the long term we might be able to treat CJD. If that happens, we don't want to wait till they are dementing before they get it. We would want to treat them early."

In sheep, the tonsil test can reveal the presence of scrapie, similar to BSE in cows and CJD in humans, before symptoms appear. If the human tonsil test revealed CJD before symptoms were apparent, it could reassure anyone who had eaten beef.

Leukaemia linked to nuclear discharges

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

FRENCH government scientist have found a link between leukaemia and children and mothers who played on the beach near a nuclear reprocessing plant in Normandy.

The findings challenge current thinking that so-called leukaemia clusters around nuclear stations had nothing to do with radioactive discharges into the environment.

The research has emerged from studies of 27 cases of leukaemia in people aged under 25 around the La Hague plant. The findings are published in the *British Medical Journal*.

The researchers found that the development of leukaemia was linked with visits to the beach and eating local shellfish. It was found that children who visited beaches near La Hague at least once a month were three times more likely to develop leukaemia.

BMA calls for ban on commercial surgeries

By Jeremy Laurance

PHARMACIES and supermarkets should be stopped from running GP services to save the NHS from privatisation, doctors' leaders said.

The British Medical Association said it would oppose government plans to allow commercial organisations to employ family doctors because it could put patients at risk from exploitation. It is to seek an amendment to the Primary Care Bill, now before Parliament, to ensure that only NHS trusts and GP practices are permitted to run GP services.

Under the Bill, published last month, commercial firms can apply to set up and run such services, provided they have the backing of an NHS trust or family doctor. The first moves are expected from NHS trusts, but ministers are keen to encourage maximum innovation and have said they will consider all proposals.

Unichem, one of Britain's biggest pharmacy chains, is the first commercial organisation to declare an interst in the scheme. It has said it wants to set up one-stop health shops combining GP services, minor surgery, chiropody and pharmacy.

On Wednesday, the council of the BMA voted to protect the NHS from "direct or indirect privatisation". Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the GPs' committee said that the aim of helping patients could conflict with a commercial organisation's need to make a profit for shareholders.

The Health Department said: "We have made it quite clear throughout that there is no intention of privatiisng the NHS. What we are looking at are services that would be delivered under the auspices of the NHS." No supermarket had expressed interest and there was no indication that any was likely to.

Small law firms lose out as face of profession changes

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE earnings of small firms of solicitors have failed to keep pace with inflation, statistics gathered by the Law Society show. Some sole practitioners made as little as £21,000 a year.

The Law Society research, which also discovered that one in three solicitors were women, found most weathered the recession, with the bigger firms faring best: those with 11 to 25 partners had a 13 per cent increase in profits in 1995 over 1994.

The total turnover of the 8,000 law firms in England and Wales rose by 4.5 per cent in 1994/95 to nearly £7 billion with solicitors accounting for £511million of earnings from overseas. But it was not enough to keep pace with inflation and the profession's growth, so solicitors' earnings and profits fell.

The statistics highlight the stark gap between the earnings of big commercial firms and small or one-person firms in England and Wales.

For sole practitioners, the average profit was £46,000, but one in four made £21,000 or less. In firms of two to four partners, the average profit per partner was £52,000 but 25 per cent of partners earned £30,000 or less. For those with five to ten partners, or 11 to 25 partners, average profits were £66,000 and £88,000 respectively. Firms of 26 to 80 partners showed average profits per equity partner in 1994/95 of £116,000.

Since 1986, the total number of solicitors with practising certificates has grown 42 per cent. But the number of women has risen 188 per cent.

The statistics show the rapid growth in the profession, by 214 per cent since 1966. Nearly half, 45 per cent, have been qualified for less than 10 years. The average age of a women solicitor is 35 compared with 43 for men.

NOW DAEWOO GIVE YOU EVEN MORE AS STANDARD: THREE YEARS FREE INSURANCE.

Buy any new Daewoo and we'll give you three years comprehensive insurance. Free. What's more, we're the only car manufacturer to do this. Add this to the peace of mind of a 3 year comprehensive warranty, 3 years free servicing, including parts and labour and 3 years Daewoo Total AA cover and you really don't have any motoring worries. Insurance is available to customers aged between 18 and 80 who have a current full or provisional UK driving licence. It will cover the car's owner and another named driver. This applies to social, domestic, pleasure and business use by the policy holder and the other named driver. Over 3 years you can build up a 50% no claims bonus, without spending a penny. Even company fleet cars are covered. And if 3 years free insurance isn't enough, you also get the rest of Daewoo's package as standard. Just read the Daewoo Manifesto. The 3, 4 and 5 door Nexia and the Espero saloon range from just £9,445 to £13,735. All in, it makes for a smarter driver. For more information on Daewoo, or to find your nearest Daewoo showroom, call us free on 0800 666 222. Or write to Daewoo Cars Ltd, FREEPOST, PO Box 401, Kent BR5 1BR.

DAEWOO

DAEWOO MANIFESTO

1. We deal direct

More for your money as standard on every Daewoo model

Electronic ABS
Driver's airbag
Power steering
Engine immobiliser
Security glass etching
Side impact protection
Metallic paint
Mobile phone

2. Hassle free buying

No salesmen on commission
Fixed pricing
No hidden charges
Delivery included
Number plates included
Full tank of fuel
12 months road tax included

3. Complete peace of mind

3 year 60,000 mile comprehensive warranty
3 year 60,000 mile free servicing including parts and labour
3 years free comprehensive insurance. Subject to status.
3 year Daewoo Total AA Cover
6 year anti-corrosion warranty
30 day 1,000 mile money back or exchange guarantee

4. Courtesy servicing

Free courtesy car offered
Pick up and return of your car (Mainland UK only)

Three years free insurance?
That'll be the
Daewoo driver.

Chilling proof that the politicians lied to us on Europe.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

We always knew it. And now we have the proof.

The politicians took Britain into a federal European superstate by deceit.

This is what the government said in it's official White Paper on Britain's entry into Europe "There is no question of any erosion of essential national sovereignty".

Edward Heath, the Prime Minister, later added "There are some in this country who fear that in going into Europe, we shall in some way sacrifice independence and sovereignty... These fears, I need hardly say are completely unjustified..."

We now have chilling evidence that these statements were lies.

Well before they were made, Britain's Lord Chancellor wrote the letter shown opposite to Heath emphasising that in his view "the surrenders of sovereignty involved are serious..." and "...ought to be brought out into the open now..."

He pointed out that Parliament would have to surrender to Europe the power to legislate. That European law would be the supreme law of this land. That we would lose our sovereign power to make treaties. And that this would lead to a "fully federal state".

Yet Heath and his close colleagues chose to purposely mislead the British public.

And still, to this day, the lies continue as politicians deny the facts and pour scorn on those who warn of Britain's loss of sovereignty.

Quite deliberately they have arranged for the next European Summit, when the important decisions will be made, to take place *after* the General Election.

This cynical move allows them to continue deceiving us with empty promises until after it is too late.

By then, the people of Britain will be powerless to prevent the politicians going back on their promises and secretly surrendering our sovereign powers.

We must have a full referendum on Europe now.

We must not allow the politicians to deceive us yet again.

REFERENDUM PARTY

It's now or never – Let the people decide

If you support the Referendum Party's aims, call **FREEPHONE 0800 074 1997** (lines open 7.00 am – 11.00 pm 7 days a week), or write to the Referendum Party, PO Box 1, Portishead, Bristol, BS20 8BR. Please quote REF T/10/1.

This advertisement prepared by Banks Hoggins O'Shea on behalf of the publisher: the Referendum Party, 1st Floor, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF.

McCartney hits back at widow over song sale

By Damian Whitworth

SIR Paul McCartney accused the BBC yesterday of trying to make The Beatles look like "widow-beaters" in an increasingly acrimonious dispute over the ownership of lyrics he wrote 30 years ago.

The musician, who was knighted in the new year honours list, reacted angrily to last night's *Watchdog* programme in which the widow of the band's road manager criticised Sir Paul for seeking an injunction banning her from selling a piece of paper on which he had scribbled the words to *With A Little Help From My Friends.*

Mal Evans was killed by police in Los Angeles in 1976 after brandishing an imitation gun. His widow, Lily, 60, had hoped that the sale of the document, which she found among his belongings, would make up to £80,000 at Sotheby's last year. However, Sir Paul, who is believed to be worth about £400 million, obtained an injunction halting the sale and argued that Mrs Evans was trying to sell property that did not belong to her.

He said in a statement yesterday that he would make sure Mrs Evans and her family were well provided for, but he wanted the lyrics back. "The programme is trying to make The Beatles out to be widow beaters. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"I would like to meet Mrs Evans and discuss this and come to some arrangement to see that she is taken care of and that the lyrics are returned. They were never Mal's lyrics and therefore any relative of Mal's, such as Mrs Evans, does not have the right of ownership to these lyrics.

"I am surprised that *Watchdog* is doing this report. I thought *Watchdog* was normally on the side of people who have been ripped off.

"Those song lyrics were picked up by Mal Evans as part of his duties as a Beatles employee. They were held in trust by him on behalf of The Beatles. I don't wish to cause any trouble for Mrs Evans or for her children, whom I remember fondly, but I do feel strongly that these original manuscripts should be returned to their owners."

Mrs Evans told *Watchdog*: "I don't know why he would want to do that. It wouldn't be for the money and he lets other people sell, so I don't know why he would want to stop me. He was a good friend of Mal's and you would think that if I was in Paul's shoes I would want to be helpful, rather than hinder."

She said that her husband, who was The Beatles' road manager throughout the 1960s, had left her without a pension. "If he had remained in his Post Office job I would have been better looked after."

Mrs Evans's son, Gary, said that his father and Sir Paul had been "best buddies". He added: "I think of everything Dad did for him. He'd be on 24 hours' notice and he'd do anything for Paul, he loved the guy. I don't think he can have much of a conscience."

Geoff Baker, Sir Paul's publicist, said that approaches had been made to Mrs Evans through her lawyers and one of Sir Paul's personal assistants had visited her to make a generous financial offer. "It is mystifying why she is doing this. Paul has said that, if she is facing hardship, The Beatles will make sure she and her children are taken care of." He added that the band had paid off her mortgage after her husband died and that she had made money through sales of other Beatles' memorabilia.

Watchdog said that Sir Paul had refused to respond to its questions about the proposed sale, but Mr Baker said that no approaches had been made through him.

Pop, page 34

BBC/WATCHDOG

Paul McCartney with Mal Evans, who kept the scribbled lyrics. His widow, Lily, hoped to sell them for £80,000

TV detective returns Betjeman's long-lost wandering ghost to the screen

Straw-hatted apparition

By Alexandra Frean
Media Correspondent

FIVE travel films by Sir John Betjeman, believed to have been lost for more than 30 years, have been tracked down after two years of detective work by a television producer. He set out on his quest after stumbling across part of the footage in a warehouse attic.

The films, in which the former Poet Laureate makes a plea to save the beauty of small English towns, are described by Gerry Dawson, who found them, as a "classic insight into English social and cultural history".

Mr Dawson, a producer for the ITV company HTV, began by looking through film cans found in the disused HTV scenery warehouse in Cardiff for anything of interest. "The cans were so rusty that the only way to open them was by banging them on a concrete floor, but the film inside was in remarkably good condition," he said. "I put it in an old viewing machine and saw that there were shots of Weston-super-Mare. Suddenly a bloke wearing a straw hat appeared and I recognised Betjeman."

Made in 1962, the films mainly offer Betjeman's idiosyncratic views on seven West Country towns — Devizes, Northlew, Swindon, Chippenham, Crewkerne, Sherborne and Sidmouth. He told viewers: "I'm not a mad preservationist, but I hate to see the heart of an old town left to go to ruin. No one wants slums preserved, but thousands of old cottages, condemned and dead, could so easily be repaired."

At that time sound was recorded on separate reels and, because the soundtrack was not available for the first reel he watched, Mr Dawson did not know what he had discovered. Research led him to Jonathan Stedall, who had directed Betjeman's television films in the Sixties. He had kept the scripts, from which Mr Dawson discovered that there were five films in the series. The Devizes footage was traced to a blacksmith, an amateur historian, who had kept it behind a bookcase. More was found in film libraries and another old HTV building. The films, some with soundtracks rerecorded by Nigel Hawthorne, will be shown on Channel 4 for three weeks, starting tonight.

Frozen fields lift prices of fresh vegetables

THE freezing weather is hitting supplies of fresh vegetables, especially cauliflowers, spring greens, Brussels sprouts and leeks, though prices are still said to be average for the time of year. Main-crop potatoes are back up to 10 to 14p a pound. There are, though, good supplies of broccoli, courgettes and salad items imported from Spain.

Some species of fish are also in short supply, but whiting is a good buy at £1.10 to £1.65 a pound according to size. Announced promotions include:

Asda: fresh pork chops £3.99 kg, avocados 99p for five, onions 32p for 1.25kg, Suntina oranges £1.49 for 1.25kg, lychees 79p for 250g.

Budgens: fresh whole chicken £3.29 for 1.9kg; smoked Dutch back bacon rashers £1.39 for 250g, large eggs 99p for 12, crumpets 28p for eight.

Co-op (CWS): Bernard Matthews frozen crispy crumb turkey burgers 64p for 283g, McCain Chippy chips 89p for 1.81kg.

Harrods: Parma ham £3.79 for 100g, Vienna sausages 99p for 100g, French pâtés £5 for two 250g tubs.

Iceland: pork chops £3.95 for six, fish and chips for two £1.99, coley fillets £1.99 for 680g, peas 79p for 907g.

Marks & Spencer: family-size Cumberland pie £2.49, salmon Cumberland pie £1.59 each, marinated gammon steak £1.99 pack.

Safeway: rump steak £6.06 kg, six large chicken breast fillets £5.32 kg, chicken tikka masala £1.99 for 340g.

Somerfield: pork loin chops £3.37 kg, smoked haddock fillet £3.72 kg, baking potatoes 9p lb, fine beans 68p for 250g.

Waitrose: free-range chickens (1kg to 2.3kg) £2.99, duckling (1.9kg to 2.5kg) £2.79, North Atlantic cooked and peeled prawns £1.49 for 115g.

Robin Young

Bupa faces trading ban in Ireland

Michael Noonan, the Irish Health Minister, threatened to ban Bupa from operating in Ireland if it did not alter its healthcare policies. He claimed that they discriminated against the sick and elderly. Under Irish law all health insurers must abide by a "community rating" and charge a healthy 25-year-old the same as a frail 85-year-old. Bupa was set up in the Republic in November in opposition to the state-owned Voluntary Health Insurance.

RAF jet crashes

An RAF fighter pilot ejected from his Harrier GR7 as it crashed on the runway at its home base in Germany. The pilot broke his leg in the incident at the Laarbruch airbase on the German-Dutch border, but nobody else was hurt. The Harrier had no weapons on board.

Boy, 10, charged

A ten-year-old boy has been charged with affray and wounding with intent over an incident in which a woman's eye was pierced with a knife outside a primary school in Doncaster, south Yorkshire. The boy was bailed to reappear before magistrates on February 13.

N-plant fire

A nuclear reactor has been shut down after a small fire at Heysham power station near Morecambe in Lancashire. Nuclear Electric said the fire, which started after an oil leak in a turbine, had been put out immediately. The reactor would remain closed pending repairs and an investigation.

Shops dividend

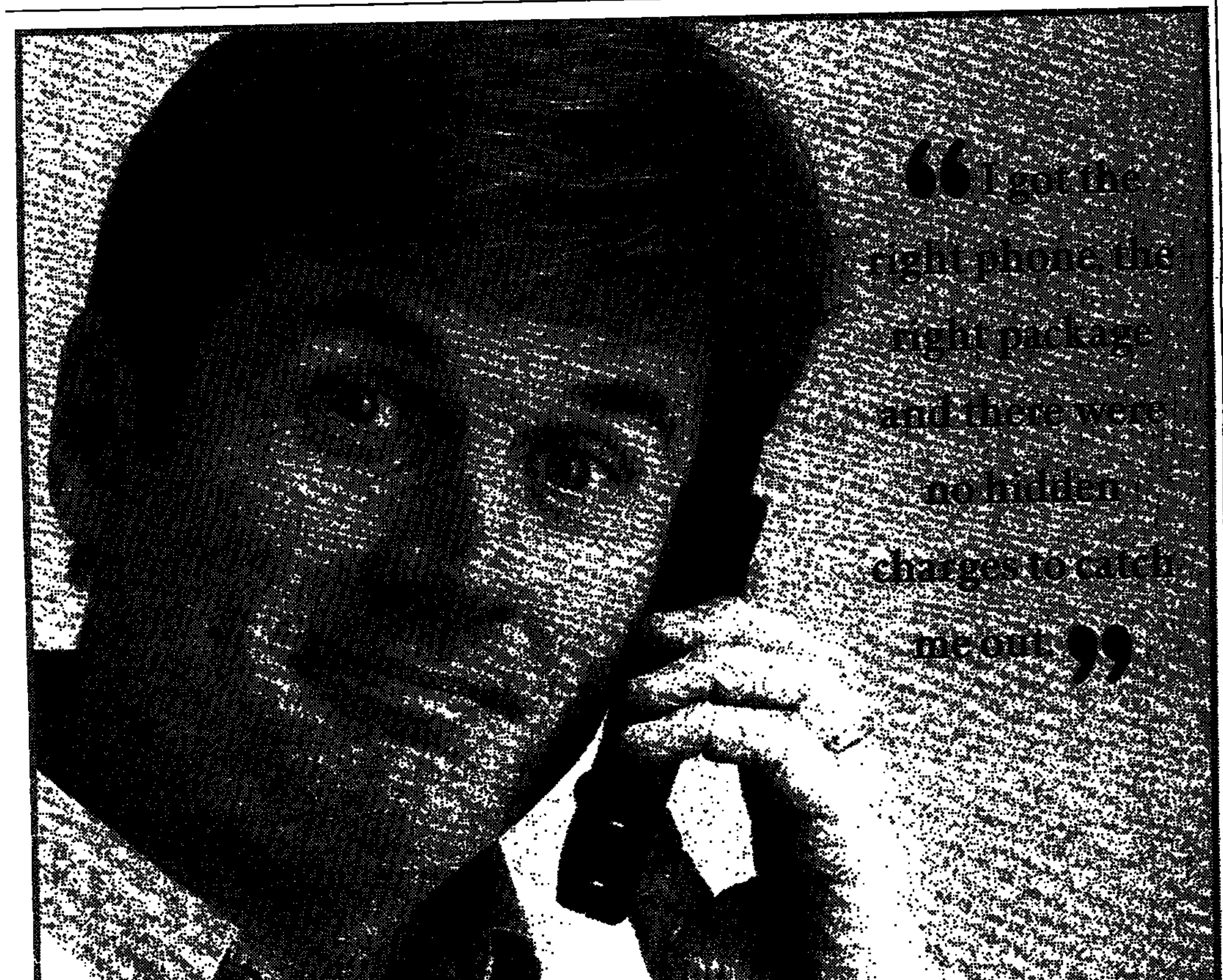
Council tax in Edinburgh may be reduced after Marks & Spencer agreed to buy the Gyle shopping centre from the city council for £122 million. The council may be able to cut the tax for band D properties by £17, or it could spend the money on education and transport projects.

Protesters bailed

Three road protesters accused of criminal damage to the garden of Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, at Cookham, Berkshire, have been freed on bail by Maidenhead magistrates. Seven other protesters will appear before magistrates next month.

300th millionaire

Malcolm Coomber, 49, an accountant from Sutton, Surrey, became the National Lottery's 300th millionaire since its launch more than two years ago after sharing the week's jackpot with ten others. He won £1,016,676. He plans to buy a red Ferrari.


"I got the right phone, the right package and there were no hidden charges to catch me out."

AN ALL-IN-ONE DIGITAL PACKAGE FOR £180 (INCLUDING CONNECTION!)

At Peoples Phone we believe in making life easy for our customers.

That's why we created our digital package, which includes connection, a choice of top brand mobile phones and line rental for 12 months.

No hidden charges, just a one-off payment, in advance. After that, all you'll pay for are your calls.

And unlike most mobile phone retailers we'll still be there after you've bought your phone, with long term service and care.

So simply call the number below to find the nearest of our 181 stores nationwide. But hurry, this offer will end on Saturday 11th January.

SEE WHAT YOU CAN SAVE!

	NORMAL PRICE	PEOPLES PHONE DIGITAL PACKAGE
12 MONTHS LINE RENTAL	£211.56	INCLUDED
CONNECTION	£35.25	INCLUDED
GSM MOBILE PHONE	£9.99	INCLUDED
	£256.80	£180.00

TOTAL SAVING £76.80

FOR ONE PAYMENT IN ADVANCE OF £180

THIS PRICE INCLUDES:
- 12 months line rental
- Connection
- A choice of leading brand name phones including the Motorola Flare

PEOPLES PHONE DIGITAL PACKAGE

OVER 180 STORES NATIONWIDE
CALL 0345·10·11·12
FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE, A FREE INFORMATION PACK OR TO PLACE AN ORDER.

PEOPLES PHONE

The offer is subject to availability, status and a new standard airtime contract of 12 months with 90 days' notice thereafter. Customers will need to provide a valid credit card or cheque guarantee card plus bank details and proof of address. T 10/1

THERE
IS ONLY ONE
TIMBERLAND
SALE.

TIMBERLAND, FIFTH FLOOR.

Substantial reductions on footwear and apparel.
Personal shoppers only. Subject to availability.

SALE OPENING HOURS:
Today, 9am - 7pm. Tomorrow, 9am - 8pm.
Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays 13th to 31st, 10am - 6pm.
Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 15th to 31st, 10am - 7pm.
Last day Saturday 1st February, 9am - 7pm.

Harrods
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Harrods Ltd., Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7XL. Telephone 0171-730 1234.

هكذا من الاصل

LAST NIGHT, WE MADE MORE RETURN TRIPS THAN ANY OTHER AIRLINE.

At last night's Executive Travel Awards, we went up to the stage to receive more awards than any other airline. We won Gold awards for Best Airline to the Far East, Best Long-haul Airline, Best Ground and Check-in Staff, and Best Lounges. So it came as no surprise to anyone when we landed the ultimate Gold, Airline of the Year 1997.

AIRLINE OF THE YEAR

SINGAPORE AIRLINES. AIRLINE OF THE YEAR 1997.

A great way to fly
SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Britain's 900,000-strong Indian community 'reinforces values and creates unbreakable bond'

Major woos Asian voters as campaign goes to Calcutta

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, IN CALCUTTA

JOHN MAJOR blazed the election trail 5,000 miles from home yesterday when he used a speech here to make a barely veiled pitch for the million-plus Asian vote in Britain.

In a speech to the Confederation of Indian Industry before an audience of several thousand in a vast indoor sports stadium, the Prime Minister praised the 900,000-strong Indian community in Britain, speaking of its thrift, hard work and entrepreneurial flair.

He said the community reinforced British values such as the importance of the family, the need for a sound ethical framework to govern conduct and a belief in the ability to make life better for its children through education and enterprise. In schools, the health service, local government and Parliament, as well as in the private sector, the Indian community made an "important, thoughtful and highly appreciated contribution", Mr Major declared.

On his way to India, Mr Major said that although the election would be important when it came, the "normal activities of government must proceed". He was responding to MPs and ministers who have privately questioned whether he should be out of the country with the election effectively under way.

He has emphasised that the main purpose of his trip is to boost British trade — he is accompanied by more than 50 of Britain's leading industrialists — and to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Indian independence. But he found it difficult from the moment he landed in Calcutta yesterday to get away from echoes of the domestic campaign.

Hundreds of people had turned out at an early hour to line the route into the city from the airport, and throughout the day he received a statesman's treatment. When he visited the Swinhoe Lane slum, renovated with British aid money, Mr Major and his wife Norma were drummed in and serenaded out by residents blowing conch shells.

> ‘The trip's main aim is to boost British trade and mark 50 years of independence’

It felt almost like an election. He had begun the week with a row over beggars with Tony Blair. But here, hundreds of thousands of protesters had indirectly blamed him for Operation Sunshine, a hardline move to clear the streets of illegal street traders. They claimed it was all done to coincide with his arrival and accused the authorities of allowing a new form of colonialism. It was claimed that the hawkers had been removed with great brutality.

Then, in his speech to the biggest audience he has faced, Mr Major appeared to confirm that there was an electoral reason behind his trip, apart from the credit he believes he receives for being seen on the world stage.

He spoke of the huge contribution made by the Indian community, one that had prospered and widened. "As an integral part of British society they create an unbreakable bond between our countries."

The South Asian vote in Britain — people with origins in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh — is some 3 per cent of the population, making it easily the largest ethnic grouping. Labour calculates that in 12 of its top 60 target seats the Asian vote could be decisive. The two largest are in Ilford South and Slough.

Suspicions that Mr Major might use his trip to bolster the Asian vote had been fuelled by the disclosure that he is soon to address a meeting of the Asian community at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London.

Shortly after his arrival, Mr Major witnessed the signing of three joint ventures with Indian companies. He also announced that Britain would grant £41 million for primary education in West Bengal, and watched a few overs of a cricket match between Lancashire and Eastern Region.

Leading article, page 21

JAYANTA SHAW/REUTER

John Major and his wife, Norma, after being given flowers by a child in Calcutta

£50,000 pledged for research to save Bengal tiger

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

AN APPEAL to India to do more to save the threatened tiger was delivered by John Major in Calcutta yesterday.

More than half the world's 7,700 or so tigers in the wild live in the Indian forests, but their numbers are falling because poachers are slaughtering them and selling the carcasses for use in traditional medicine. The Prime Minister told the Confederation of Indian Industry that trade must have a heart and a conscience as well as a profit. He said: "I very much regret the sad fact that the tiger has become one of the most endangered animals in the world today."

British officials said that Britain was to give £50,000 to groups researching ways to improve conservation methods. Mr Major welcomed the steps India was taking, but said that more needed to be done. Britain would continue to work with India and other countries to find a solution.

He added: "The tiger is a proud and glorious animal. We must ensure his survival so that our great grandchildren can enjoy his grace and power as much as we do."

The Indian tiger population, estimated at 3,000 to 4,000 animals, is down from about 40,000 at the beginning of the century. The race living on the Indian subcontinent is the Bengal tiger. Three races, the Caspian, the Bali and the Javan, are extinct. The last surviving races are the Bengal, the Indo-Chinese, the Sumatran, the South China and the Amur or Siberian.

All tigers are protected under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species. It bans trade in tiger parts, skins and bones. But the demand for tiger parts to supply the Chinese and oriental medicines trade has led to poaching throughout the 1990s. Booming human populations and their need for housing and farmland are also bringing the tiger increasingly into conflict with villagers.

India has 21 reserves specifically managed for tigers containing about a third of the remaining animals. They are also found in a further 80 protected areas. However, as new areas are added, some reserves are under threat. The key Melghat reserve is to be reduced in area by a third to accommodate more people.

Bengal tiger: not more than 4,000 in the wild

60 troops killed in Sri Lanka attack

FROM VIJITHA YAPA IN COLOMBO

SIXTY Sri Lankan soldiers were killed yesterday and more than 200 injured when Tamil separatists attacked two army camps in Paranthan and Elephant Pass, northern Sri Lanka, military sources said.

They added that more than 500 terrorists from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were either wounded or killed in the pre-dawn attack, according to rebel sources. In addition to attacks from the land using heavy artillery, Tamils had turned up in boats. Army sources said they suspected that the heavy artillery used had been captured when the Tamils overran an army camp at Mullaittivu last year, killing more than 1,000 soldiers.

Twenty-two seriously injured soldiers were flown yesterday to Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, for treatment. Military sources said the death toll could be much higher. The Tigers fled from northern territories attacked by Sri Lanka's armed forces last year.

The attack took place as the Government was working on devolution plans. The Justice Minister has said the Government may hold a referendum if the opposition United National Party does not co-operate to achieve the majority needed to pass the legislation.

Clean up on AEG

ÖKO-LAVAMAT 6205
Digilogic Washing Machine
New unique Stain-Action programme
19 programmes including Delicates and Woollens wash
VARIOMATIC low crease spin cycle
EC wash performance rating B
SALE PRICE £529.99 RRP £599.99 SAVE £70

ÖKO-FAVORIT 5040
Dishwasher
Super quiet design – only 47dB
5 programmes including Intensive and Economy wash
Flexible basket layout for 12 place settings
SALE PRICE £439.99 RRP £519.99 SAVE £80

ÖKO-LAVAMAT 6100
Washing Machine
Digitronic control system – excellent wash results, low running costs
19 programmes with Quickwash and gentle Wool Cradle
EC wash performance rating C
SALE PRICE £469.99 RRP £549.99 SAVE £80

ÖKO-FAVORIT 4040
Dishwasher
Super quiet design – only 47dB
The quietest 4-programme dishwasher available
Unique 50°C BIO-wash programme
SALE PRICE £399.99 RRP £479.99 SAVE £80

ÖKO-SANTO 1643TK
Larder Fridge
5.1 cu.ft. gross capacity
EC energy efficient class A – the most efficient rating
Hygienic glass shelving and storage set for fruit and vegetables
SALE PRICE £279.99 RRP £299.99 SAVE £20

COMPETENCE 5250B
Build-in electric single oven
Ventitherm Multifunction in white, brown or black
Powerful dual circuit grill
Triple glazed Cool-touch door
24-hour LED clock with Auto-timer
SALE PRICE £579.79 RRP £639.79 SAVE £60

COMPETENCE 3215V
Slot-in electric cooker
55cm wide fan main oven and secondary oven with grill
Catalytic self-clean liners
Ceramic hob including 1 Halogen, 1 Speedstar, 1 Dual zone cooking area
Available in white or brown
SALE PRICE £829.99 RRP £899.99 SAVE £70

COMPETENCE 52580B
Build-in electric double oven
Ventitherm Multifunction in white, brown or black
Secondary oven with dual circuit grill
24-hour LED clock with Auto-timer for both ovens
Non-tip oven shelves
SALE PRICE £889.98 RRP £959.98 SAVE £70

Available from good independent electrical retailers, selected Co-op Societies, Allders, Apollo 2000, Bentalls, Currys, Electricity Plus, Harrods, House of Fraser, John Lewis, Miller Brothers, Northern Electric, Norweb, Powerhouse, Scottish Power, SEEB, Selfridges, Tempo and other leading department stores

ADVANCED ENGINEERING FROM GERMANY AEG

The Puccini Experience

Angela Gheorghiu • Nina Rautio
Johan Botha • Anthony Michaels-Moore
Orchestra & Chorus of the Royal Opera House
Covent Garden, Sir Edward Downes

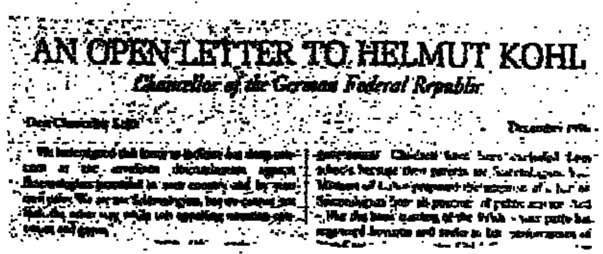
The most beautiful music from each of Puccini's operas performed by the stunning Angela Gheorghiu and other great artists.

Includes O mio babbino caro from Room with a View, One Fine Day from Madam Butterfly, Nessun Dorma and many more

Out now on CD and Cassette at all leading record stores
AS SEEN ON CHANNEL 4 AND HEARD ON CLASSIC FM

Stars accuse Germany of persecuting Scientologists

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN



AN OPEN LETTER TO HELMUT KOHL

Chancellor of the German Federal Republic

Part of the Hollywood protesters' advertisement

DUSTIN HOFFMAN, Goldie Hawn and other Hollywood stars joined forces with top film producers, directors and writers yesterday to attack German discrimination against Scientologists, comparing Bonn's policies with Hitler's treatment of the Jews.

The broadside from Tinseltown came in an open letter to Helmut Kohl which the German Chancellor rejected yesterday. The 34 signatories, Herr Kohl said, "have no idea about Germany and do not want to learn about the country; otherwise they would never have dreamt up something like this".

The letter, published in a full-page advertisement in the *International Herald Tribune*, seemed to signal an all-out publicity offensive on behalf of the Scientologists. "We implore you to bring an end to this shameful pattern of organised persecution," the stars said. "It is a disgrace to the German nation."

The signatories said that they were not Scientologists. Film stars such as Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman and John Travolta, who are members of the Church of Scientology, have already protested about what they regard as persecution. But as German authorities consider whether to monitor Scientologists with the help of plain-clothes police, and as Scientologists are excluded from some Civil Service jobs, so the anger of the Hollywood establishment has increased.

"These acts are intolerable in any country that conceives of itself as a modern democracy. This organised oppression is beginning to sound familiar ... like the Germany of 1936 rather than 1996. It should be stopped — now, before it spreads and increases in virulence as it did before."

The letter was signed not only by Mr Hoffman and Ms Hawn, both of whom have films showing in German cinemas, but also by Oliver Stone, the director, Gore Vidal and Mario Puzo, the writers, Larry King, the CNN talkshow host, and producers such as Aaron Spelling and Cherry Lansing.

The appeal was directed to Herr Kohl partly because he is chairman of the Christian Democratic party, which has been the most energetic in combating Scientology.

Hawn: has film showing in German cinemas

The youth wing of his party organised a boycott of the film *Mission Impossible* because its leading actor and co-producer was Cruise. Chick Corea, the American jazz pianist, had to cancel his performance at a state-sponsored concert in Stuttgart because of his association with Scientology.

The protesting Hollywood stars compared such boycotts and bans with the Nazi book-burnings of the 1930s. Edmund Stoiber, Bavaria's conservative Prime Minister, has described Scientology as a "subversive, intolerant, racist organisation that wants to replace our society with a totalitarian regime". From last November, applicants for jobs in Bavaria's Civil Service have been questioned about their links to Scientology and are rejected if they are associated with the group.

Other regional politicians have also accused the sect of being a danger to German society and have called for the group to be put under surveillance or even banned. However, the country's 16 regional interior ministers have stopped short of such drastic measures and have called for detailed reports on the sect's activities before making a decision.

There are about 30,000 members of the "Scientology Church Germany" which is not accepted by the German authorities as a legitimate church or religion. In 1995 a court in Kassel ruled that Scientology was a business organisation. "The spiritual content and the outside appearance of the community should reflect its religious nature. But this is not the case with the Scientology Church Germany, which in reality is engaged in trade," the court ruling said.

Both sides in this increasingly acrimonious dispute invoke the Nazi past. Ursula Caberta, director of a Hamburg-based taskforce investigating Scientology, said that before she got involved in the project she used to think "if you are stupid enough to believe in Scientology, that's your problem.

"But now I truly believe if you analyse [L. Ron] Hubbard [the founder of Scientology] and his writings, you will see that he is promoting the idea of a totalitarian state and of the *Übermensch* [the superman]. Instead of talking about Aryans, as Hitler did, he is talking about Scientologists. Because of our history we have to be much more careful about this kind of thing spreading."

Tom Cruise, left, whose film was boycotted, and Chick Corea, who had to cancel a Stuttgart concert appearance

The star-studded letter writers approached the problem from the opposite corner yesterday. "In the Germany of the 1930s," they wrote, "Hitler made religious intolerance official government policy. Jews were at first marginalised, then excluded from many activities, then vilified and ultimately subjected to unspeakable horrors ... in the 1930s, it was the Jews. Today it is the Scientologists."

When Cruise and other Scientologist stars made similar links in newspaper advertisements last year, Ignaz Bubis, the head of the Jewish community in Germany, described such claims as offensive and insulting to millions of Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

The US State Department also distanced itself from the pro-Scientology advertisements, saying: "This is an outrageous charge against the German Government by an American group. It bears no resemblance to the facts of what is going on there."

The Scientologists have operated uneasily in Germany since the 1970s, but despite occasional frictions, there has been nothing to match the intensity of the present row. Several German Cabinet ministers have become involved in the campaign. Claudia Nolte, the Family Affairs Minister, argues that "Scientology aims for world domination and the destruction of our society".

The Scientologists deny that they have any political aims. They say that their critics are misinformed and that religious freedom is under threat.

Michael Gove, page 20

Coup for church as studios fear box-office boycott

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE Church of Scientology's latest broadside is ostensibly a major coup in its international quest for credibility, enlisting a brace of powerful Hollywood luminaries with no direct link to the group to support its persecution claims.

Closer study of the list of signatories to yesterday's open letter reveals, however, that many have close and lucrative ties to the world's two best-known Scientologists — the top box-office draws Tom Cruise and John Travolta.

Dustin Hoffman, Aaron Spelling, the television producer, and Sidney Sheinberg, the former Universal Studios' chief, are among high-profile Jewish signatories to back the letter's claims. But many others appear to have feared films starring Travolta and Cruise — and his wife and fellow Scientologist Nicole Kidman — might be boycotted by German cinemagoers who represent a third of Hollywood's booming European market.

As the star of *Mission Impossible*, which took $180 million in America alone, and of the current hit about an idealistic sports agent, *Jerry Maguire* ($83 million and counting), Cruise, 35, is acknowledged as the world's most bankable actor.

Six of the executives most intimately involved in the multimillion-dollar industry surrounding him have signed the letter to the *International Herald Tribune*: John Calley, head of Sony Pictures, which is distributing *Jerry Maguire*; Sherry Lansing, head of Paramount Pictures, which released *Mission Impossible*; Terry Semel, head of Warner Bros, which will distribute Cruise's next film; Jack Rapke and Rick Nicita, senior agents who oversee his career at the Creative Artists' Agency; and Paula Wagner, his partner in his own production company.

Travolta: phenomenal return to the top

Ms Wagner is thought to be a Scientologist. The other five, not known for publicly supporting Scientology, may be observing the first rule of business in Hollywood's cut-throat environment — it never pays to alienate a star on a hot streak.

The same appears to be true of Fred Westheimer, Travolta's agent at the William Morris Agency, who also signed the letter. Travolta's meteoric professional resurrection since his star turn in *Pulp Fiction* in 1994 has included such unlikely hits as *Phenomenon* and *Michael*, currently tied at number one with *Jerry Maguire* in the American box-office charts.

Phenomenon, about a countryman experiencing heightened awareness before dying from a brain tumour, took $104 million in America and included thinly disguised paeans to "clear" thinking — a core aim of Scientology.

Other stars known to be practising Scientologists include Kirstie Alley, Mimi Rogers (Cruise's ex-wife), Sonny Bono, Nancy Cartwright and the jazz pianist Chick Corea.

The 40-year-old church recently suffered a legal blow when a long-running lawsuit against *Time* magazine over a wounding 1991 exposé was dismissed by a US federal court.

Fast-growing sect wins credibility in Britain

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTOLOGY, which was brought to Britain in 1954, is gaining up to 4,000 recruits a year, and now has more than 100,000 members in this country.

The religion has been gaining credibility and acquired significant new recognition when, under new Home Office guidelines published at the end of last year, Scientology leaders were granted the right to enter the country as recognised religious ministers. Although the sect has so far failed to attract celebrity support as it has done in the United States, it has a small church in central London similar to that frequented by the Hollywood stars in Los Angeles. The London church, one of three established in the capital and 11 nationwide, was set up to serve British celebrities.

Scientology began in 1950 with the publication of *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*, by L. Ron Hubbard, who believed a person is neither a body nor a mind, but a spiritual being. The sect claims to be a religion in the most traditional sense, dealing with the person as spirit rather than the product of material circumstances.

The church has in the past been defined as a cult by the Home Office, and in 1968 was deemed "socially harmful". Members were barred from entering Britain to study or minister.

The group has also applied for charitable status, and a decision is pending.

B&Q
SALE
ANGELA NEILSON
Sales Adviser
B&Q STIRLING

"Fantastic Sale Offers on Bathrooms and Kitchens."

£100 OFF
SELECTED BATHROOM SUITES

Country Cottage Bathroom Suite
White acrylic bath with antique pine effect front panel and toilet seat and gold effect bath and basin taps.
Was £595
NOW £495

Sherwood Corner Bathroom Suite
White acrylic offset corner bath (L/R hand), mahogany or antique pine effect bath panel and toilet seat and gold effect basin taps and bath taps (not bath/shower mixer as shown).
Was £495
NOW £395

SHELDON SUITE WAS £299
ONLY £249
Suite comprises straight white acrylic bath and front panel, 2 tap hole basin and pedestal, c/c pan and cistern, white wooden toilet seat and gold effect bath and basin taps (includes wastes).
TAKE AWAY TODAY

UP TO 2 YEARS 0% INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON SELECTED KITCHENS†
Up to 2 years Interest Free Credit when you spend £1,800 or more on 28 kitchens in the range.

PURCHASE PRICE £1,800
REPAYABLE IN 18 MONTHLY INSTALMENTS OF ONLY £80
20% MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF £360
LOAN VALUE £1,440
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE (0%APR) £1,800

Your purchase can include accessories, worktops, sinks, taps, appliances and installation costs.

†Interest Free Credit subject to acceptance, to UK residents only. 20% minimum deposit required. IFC not applicable to discounted kitchens or kitchens stocked in store. Written quotations available on request. Ask in store for details. B&Q plc.

PURCHASE PRICE	CREDIT PERIOD
£1,800 - £2,399.99	18 months
£2,400 or more	24 months

UP TO 33% OFF
SELECTED KITCHEN UNITS
Was £814.91
NOW £543.25
Glendale
9 Unit Kitchen
Example as shown.*

*9 UNIT KITCHEN EXAMPLE
1 500mm DRAWER PACK
2 1000mm HIGHLINE BASE/SINK UNIT
3 1000mm HIGHLINE BASE CORNER UNIT
4 600mm BUILT UNDER OVEN HOUSING
5 1000mm HIGHLINE BASE UNIT
6 500mm WALL UNIT
7 1000mm WALL UNIT
8 600mm BRIDGING UNIT
9 1000mm WALL UNIT
All units are self-assembly. Other units available, ask in store for details and costs. Example includes items only as stated.

Pop into your local B&Q for your copy of the B&Q Kitchens and Bathrooms brochures.

EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q
Pick up a leaflet in store.
Does not apply in B&Q Warehouses or B&Q Depots.

OPENING HOURS
Monday-Saturday: Most stores 8am-8pm.
Sunday: Most stores England & Wales 10am-4pm (where permitted).
Scotland & Northern Ireland 9am-6pm.
Certain store hours may vary, please 'phone your nearest store to confirm.

A BIGGER CHOICE • A BETTER PRICE
B&Q
YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST D.I.Y CHAIN – FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0800 600 900
We're now on the Internet - http://www.diy.co.uk
Ask in-store for details of all offers. Offers may vary at B&Q Warehouses and B&Q Depots. See in-store for details of our price promise. All kitchens and bathrooms may not be displayed in all stores but can be ordered from any B&Q. Installation only available with purchases of B&Q kitchens and bathrooms and not included in all discount offers, ask in store for details and costs. Ask in store for items comprising Country Cottage and Sherwood suites

Kohl rejects vote on euro in face of record jobless toll

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, yesterday ruled out the possibility of holding a referendum on economic and monetary union (EMU) although nearly three-quarters of Germans say they favour such a vote before giving up the mark.

"I'm a committed supporter of representative democracy," he said. Germany had negative experiences with referendums in the interwar Weimar Republic and to introduce it now "would lead quickly to another kind of republic".

Herr Kohl was responding to an opinion poll which showed that more than half of Germans are against introducing the single currency in January 1999. The survey revealed that only 15 per cent believed that the euro would be as strong as the mark.

The German constitution makes no provision for holding referendums but pressure has been mounting to amend it to enable a popular vote on the euro. The poll, conducted by the Forsa Institute and published yesterday, showed that 73 per cent of Germans want a referendum.

But the Chancellor, in his traditional new year news conference, thundered: "I am against it in principle."

No other country in Europe, he said, voted as often as the Germans; polls in 16 regional states occur throughout the political calendar, giving Germans the chance to air their views on the shift to EMU.

Herr Kohl said he had little doubt that Germans would in any case vote for the euro if a referendum were held. "We have a clear majority in the business community," he said.

The euro's potential for creating jobs is a matter of dispute. The arguments could intensify after figures released yesterday showed record post-war unemployment last month of 4.13 million. The trade union federation said the true number was nearer seven million. But Herr Kohl declared that it was possible to halve unemployment by the millennium.

He also echoed — though more diplomatically — the comments by Klaus Kinkel, his Foreign Minister, about the need for Britain to decide its future European course. Herr Kinkel's comments angered British Eurosceptics.

"I know Klaus Kinkel was criticised in the British media and I have no intention of meddling in the internal affairs of Austria ... er, sorry, England," Herr Kohl said. But Britain had to hold its election by May and "this placed it right in the middle of the critical talks on the intergovernmental conference."

As far as he understood British politics, there were many competing views on the EU. "So this election is a clear vote of Britain's destiny."

DARKO VOJINOVIC/AP

An anti-riot policeman is fed with a biscuit by a young woman during a student protest in Belgrade yesterday

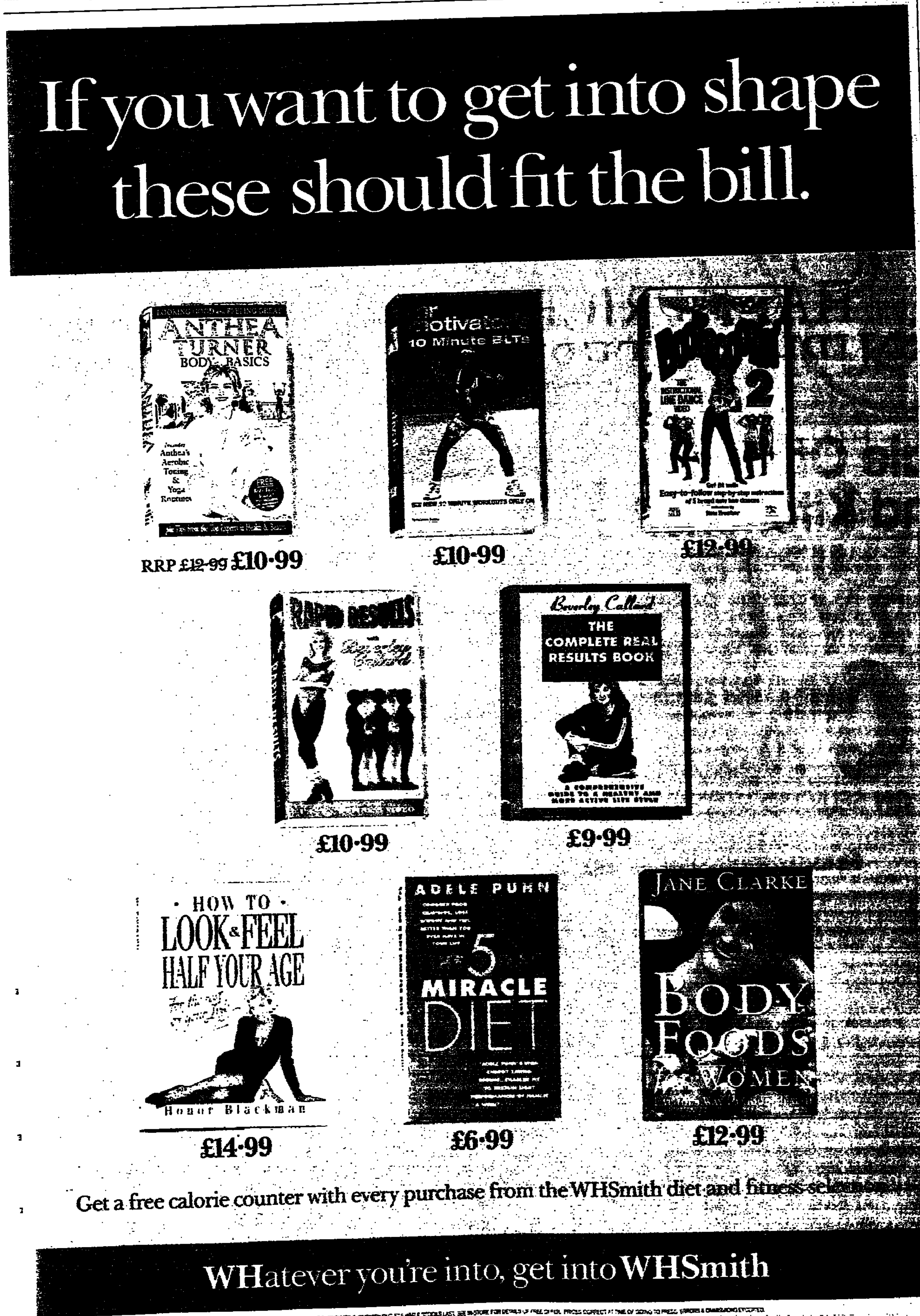
Belgrade opposition keeps up pressure

From Anthony Loyd in Belgrade

THE partial climbdown this week by President Milosevic over election results in Nis, Serbia's second city, has failed to lift the pressure on his Socialist Government — the centre of Belgrade remains paralysed and there are escalating demonstrations in 42 other towns and cities.

"Milosevic's gesture means nothing as far as we are concerned," said Vuk Draskovic, leader of the Zajedno opposition coalition. "He tried to steal Belgrade and his move over Nis is just an attempt to buy time."

Nis is the dominant city of southern Serbia and a traditional industrial bastion of Socialist support. The second round of elections in November gave the opposition a clear majority and 41 seats. The results were revoked by Mr Milosevic, but partially reinstated two days ago as part of a conciliatory feint when state TV announced that Zajedno's victory in Nis gave the opposition 37 seats.



If you want to get into shape these should fit the bill.

RRP ~~£12·99~~ £10·99

£10·99

£12·99

£10·99

£9·99

£14·99

£6·99

£12·99

Get a free calorie counter with every purchase from the WHSmith diet and fitness selection

WHatever you're into, get into WHSmith

LOOKING GOOD AND FEELING GREAT
ANTHEA TURNER
BODY BASICS
Anthea's Aerobic Toning & Yoga Routines
FREE
motivator
10 Minute BLTS
THE INSTRUCTIONAL LINE DANCE VIDEO
2
Easy-to-follow step-by-step instructions
RAPID RESULTS
Beverley Callard
THE COMPLETE REAL RESULTS BOOK
A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO A HEALTHY AND MORE ACTIVE LIFE STYLE
HOW TO LOOK & FEEL HALF YOUR AGE
Honor Blackman
ADELE PUHN
5 MIRACLE DIET
JANE CLARKE
BODY FOODS WOMEN

Date set for Nigerian elections

Abuja: Nigerians are due to go to the polls on March 15 in the country's first municipal elections on a party basis since General Sani Abacha seized power in November 1993, the electoral commission said yesterday. Five registered parties will field candidates.

The elections should have taken place in the last quarter of 1996 under a phased programme for the transfer of power from General Abacha's military leadership to a democratically elected presidency. However, the commission said the delay would not threaten the date by which the transfer should be completed — October 1, 1998. *(AFP)*

Dhaka leader freed from jail

Dhaka: Hossain Mohammad Ershad, the former President of Bangladesh, who was freed from jail yesterday, said he would soon resume an active political life. He denied opposition claims that his bail on corruption charges was the result of a deal between his Jatiya Party and the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister. *(Reuter)*

Visa snag delays Rwanda tribunal

Arusha: The United Nations tribunal on Rwanda's 1994 genocide opened in the Tanzanian city but was adjourned because 31 witnesses had not arrived from Rwanda to testify against Jean-Paul Akayesu, a Hutu former government official. They had experienced visa problems. Almost a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus died in 1994. *(Reuter)*

Russian space monkey dies

Moscow: Multik, one of two Russian macaque monkeys that were wired to electrodes in scientific experiments during a two-week space mission that ended on Tuesday, has died in an accident at a Moscow research centre unrelated to the flight, the Tass news agency said. *(Reuter)*

Here's licking at you, kid

Washington: The late actor Humphrey Bogart is to have a US postage stamp dedicated to him next year, the third in a Legends of Hollywood series after Marilyn Monroe and James Dean. The stamp image is to be based on a poster advertising the 1946 film, *The Big Sleep*. *(AP)*

Embattled Mobutu flies back to France

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

PRESIDENT MOBUTU of Zaire flew back to France for medical consultations yesterday, three weeks after he returned home vowing to crush the rebel uprising that has plunged his country into chaos.

Mr Mobutu had spent four months in Europe recuperating from cancer surgery as the Rwandan-backed rebels advanced in eastern Zaire. He returned to Kinshasa on December 17.

After reshuffling his Government and the army high command and announcing an imminent counter-attack on the rebels, he announced on Wednesday night that he was returning to his villa on the Côte d'Azur. Zairean officials would not say how long he planned to stay, but Paris has issued him with an extendable three-month visa.

After arriving in Nice by private plane, Mr Mobutu, 66, and his retinue of family members, servants and bodyguards drove in a convoy of 11 vehicles to his luxury residence, the Villa del Mare, in the nearby town of Roquebrune-Cap-Martin. The President underwent an operation for prostate cancer in Switzerland last August, but the Swiss authorities have refused to renew his visa.

Presidential aides said the reasons for Mr Mobutu's return were entirely medical, but with hundreds of European mercenaries reported to be preparing to back the disorganised Zairean Army in a counter-attack on rebel positions, his departure comes at a critical moment. Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, has promised to oust Zaire's ruler of 31 years and Mr Mobutu has refused to negotiate with the rebels.

His unexpected return may be seen as a sign that Mr Mobutu believes his troops have little immediate hope of overcoming the highly trained and well-equipped rebels, with or without help from mercenaries.

Mobutu: returning for "medical reasons"

Nile flourish by Mubarak

Toshka, Egypt: President Mubarak of Egypt yesterday launched a controversial plan to use Nile water to make the Western Desert bloom.

On the banks of the lake behind the Aswan High Dam, Mr Mubarak detonated a symbolic explosion at the site of what Egypt says will be the biggest pumping station in the world.

Within about four years, water should be winding across the Western Desert, irrigating at least 500,000 acres of virgin land to be settled by millions of people.

More than 60 million Egyptians live in the Nile Valley and Delta, which make up only 4 per cent of the country's land area. The rest is desert. Some experts fear that the project will be an expensive failure. *(Reuter)*

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

Hormones 'tainted with CJD' given to French children

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

STATE pharmaceutical officials in France knowingly distributed growth hormones to children that could cause the fatal Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), the human variant of "mad cow" disease, according to an investigation by a French weekly magazine.

As many as 1,000 children may have been infected by the tainted growth-drugs in 1985 and at least 40 have since died, according to *L'Express*.

Marie-Odile Bertella-Geffory, the investigating magistrate, has reportedly launched a formal legal investigation into four doctors and researchers on suspicion of involuntary homicide, in a case with disturbing parallels to France's politically explosive scandal, dating from the same year, over blood tainted with the Aids virus.

L'Express cited a court report alleging that about 20,000 hormonal pills to combat dwarfism in children were distributed by pharmaceutical officials *without* first being treated to eliminate the prion or infectious agent that can cause CJD.

Destroying the pills, containing possibly infectious hormones, would have meant losses of about Fr5.5 million (£700,000); but doctors at the Pharmacie Centrale des Hôpitaux were anxious to save money, according to *L'Express*.

In 1985, health officials distributed blood stocks contaminated with the Aids virus, after refusing to spend money on technology from the United States to treat the blood. At least 1,200 haemophiliac victims were infected and 400 later died, leading to the conviction of four senior health officials and a compensation bill of more than Fr5 billion. Three former Cabinet ministers have been charged *with poisoning in that case.*

Hervé Gaymard, France's Health Minister, promised a full inquiry into the allegations and said that prosecutions would be brought if warranted. He said the drugs, using hormones extracted from the pituitary glands of corpses, were no longer in use and had been replaced by synthetic hormones. *L'Express* said the hormones were taken from corpses at hospitals specialising in contagious diseases and senile dementia.

Jean-Claude Job, the president of France's Pituitary Institute in 1985, and Fernand Dray, the research director at the Pasteur Institute, are among those under investigation.

ANDREA RUGGERI/REX

One of the rebels holding hostages at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima

Siege rebels in 'safe passage' talks with Lima

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN LIMA

THE Peruvian Government is negotiating a safe passage for the 20 Marxist rebels who are holding 74 hostages inside the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima.

This emerged yesterday after Vladimiro Montesinos, *Peru's intelligence chief and* right-hand man to President Fujimori, held talks with imprisoned leaders of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA).

It appears that the Government sees the only chance of a negotiated settlement to the 22-day siege in talks with the leaders. It is offering safe passage to the hostage-takers to any country that will have them — possibly Cuba — in exchange for the release of the hostages.

Señor Montesinos, who is rarely seen or heard in public, runs the intelligence services and the military. President Fujimori admits that he rarely takes major decisions without him.

"Montesinos has been talking to the MRTA leadership in prison to negotiate safe passage for the terrorists who are inside the Japanese Ambassador's residence holding hostages," said an intelligence source.

Nestor Cerpa, 44, the veteran guerrilla who is commanding the 20 heavily-armed rebels holding the hostages, is the only top leader not behind bars.

His army of young rebels, including two teenage girls, are possibly all that is left of the group. Their assault on the Japanese Ambassador's home seems a last-ditch attempt to free some of his friends and his girlfriend, who is among the jailed rebels.

Peruvian military commanders led by General Nicolás Hermoza are pushing for a military solution to the siege. But the Government is still seeking a peaceful way out, under pressure from the Japanese.

Britain accused of negligence in 'mad cow' crisis

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITISH handling of the BSE epidemic is a long tale of negligence and attempts to blackmail the European Commission, according to an inquiry by the European Parliament.

In a final report to be issued next week, a parliamentary committee charges Britain with bad faith in its management of the disease since 1988. The cross-party committee, which has been hearing evidence from British and European Union officials since last autumn, also accuses the Brussels Commission of failing in its duty by accepting the British line, playing down the gravity of the epidemic, and placing the farm trade above public health.

The findings of the inquiry, which is the first by the parliament using powers it received under the Maastricht treaty, were dismissed by British officials as widely expected. The inquiry has no power to apply sanctions, but its findings are prompting anger around the Continent.

Le Soir of Brussels said the report had confirmed "the incredible British lack of fair play" over the "mad cow" affair. Bad publicity over the inquiry's findings will not help Britain's drive in the coming weeks to win a partial lifting of the beef export embargo from herds certified to be BSE-free.

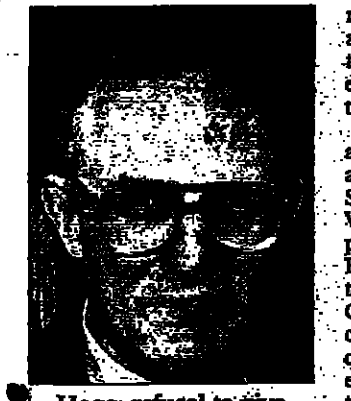
The inquiry's conclusions, drafted by Manuel Medina, a Spanish Socialist MEP, are to be endorsed by the 19-member committee in Strasbourg after an appearance by Jacques Santer, the Commission President, next week. The report, which may be revised before its release, stops short of recommending a no-confidence vote in the Commission. However, a minority of members, led by Jose Happart, a Belgian MEP, is calling for such a move.

A list of 13 alleged British failings includes the attempt to win an end to the embargo by blocking EU business last spring. That amounted to "an abuse of its rights and blackmailing of the Community institutions by the UK". Britain had exerted pressure on the Commission over BSE for the past six years, refusing to allow veterinary inspections in the early 1990s and using British officials and scientists to swing decisions in London's favour, it said.

Since the EU's scientific committee advising on BSE had been dominated by, and usually chaired by, Britons, "it is logical to have doubts about their powers of arbitration and capacity to be impartial," Señor Medina's report said.

The big rise in the export of British animal-based feed after the national ban amounted to "a failure to comply with the principle of co-operation that must exist between all member states", it said. Britain had also refused to listen to scientists who judged the epidemic to be more serious than officially acknowledged.

The committee was scathing about British officials who appeared before it, including Sir Keith Meldrum, the Chief Veterinary Officer, and it deplored the refusal of Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, to give evidence. The Commission's consistent policy of playing down the consequences of the epidemic "could even be interpreted at certain times as a policy of disinformation", it said.



Hogg: refusal to give evidence deplored

Israel tension high as bombs injure 13

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ARAB-Israeli tension increased dangerously last night after at least two explosions rocked a southern district of Tel Aviv, injuring 13 people and raising fears of a new Palestinian terrorist campaign inside Israel.

Although there was no immediate confirmation of the cause of the explosions, Avigdor Kahalani, the Interior Security Minister, said that Arab terrorism was a possible cause. He also said no motive had been ruled out and it was possible that the blasts were caused by criminals.

The bombs were in rubbish bins — one near a cinema screening sex films and the other close by in an area largely inhabited by immigrant workers and known for its high levels of prostitution. The attack came as talks designed to bring about an Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron appeared to be stalled.

The blasts caused panic in the streets and caused immediate concern that they may have been intended as retaliation for last week's attempted massacre of Palestinians in the market area of Hebron. The attack by an off-duty Israeli soldier injured six Arabs.

In recent days Israel has also been accused by Syria of being behind a huge bus bomb attack in Damascus last week, which left 13 people dead and 40 wounded. The right-wing Israeli Government has denied the charges.

As the violence flared again and in the wake of the Syrian accusations, a leading member of Israel's ruling Likud Party called for Israel to attack Syrian targets in Lebanon. The demand from Uzi Landau came after attacks on Wednesday in occupied southern Lebanon in which one Israeli soldier was killed and eight were wounded.

Mr Landau said: "A price must be exacted from the Syrian and Lebanese Governments for this kind of situation, for if we do not, terrorism will increase."

THE ONLY SALE THAT COUNTS

OFFERS END 5PM SUNDAY

HALF PRICE UPHOLSTERY

FREE FOR A YEAR

4 YEARS INTEREST FREE CREDIT*

with no deposit and nothing to pay for 12 months

Chelsea 3 piece suite
Previous price £2,899. SALE PRICE ~~£1,795~~
5 ONLY PER STORE £1,399

Sloane 3 piece suite
Previous price £2,999. SALE PRICE ~~£1,999~~
10 ONLY PER STORE £1,499

Forsythe 3 piece suite
Previous price £3,097. SALE PRICE ~~£2,297~~
5 ONLY PER STORE £1,499

Camille 3 piece suite
Previous price £2,887. SALE PRICE ~~£2,297~~
5 ONLY PER STORE £1,999

MAPLES

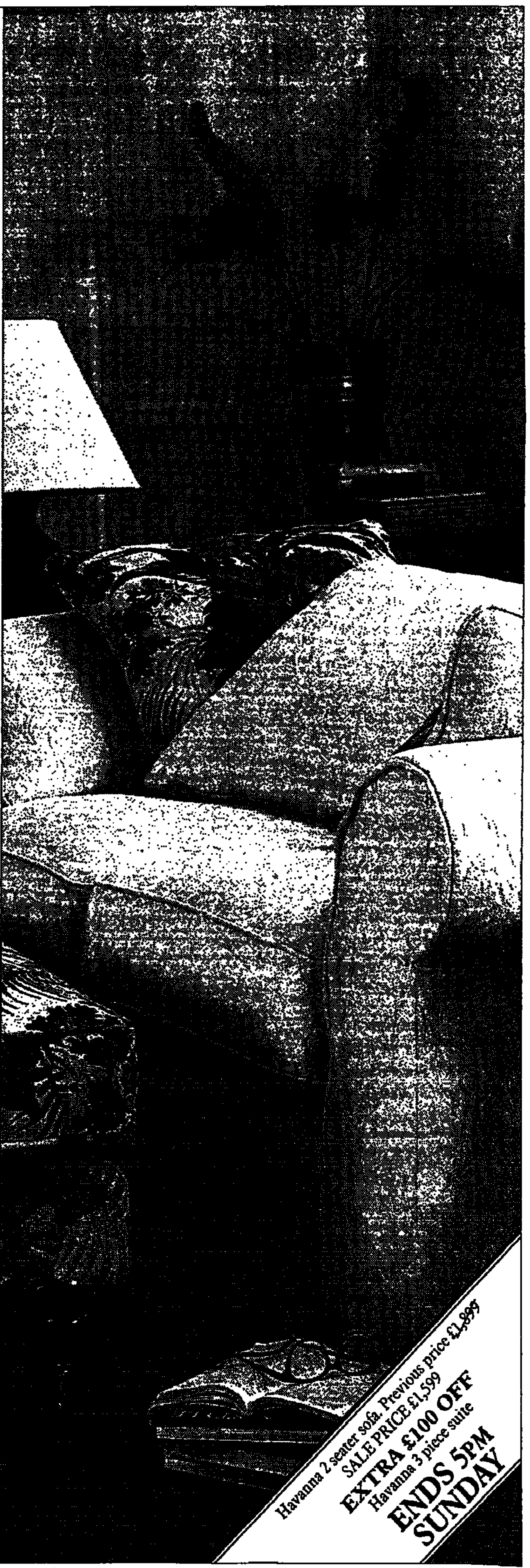
Your interior. *Our designs.*

Open Sundays – Call your local store on 0345 585851

BOURNEMOUTH · BRIGHTON · BRISTOL · BROMLEY · CARDIFF
CHELMSFORD · CHESTER · EXETER† · JERSEY† · KINGSTON-ON-THAMES
LANCASTER† (WARING & GILLOW) · LEEDS · LEICESTER† · MANCHESTER
SOUTHAMPTON · SOUTHPORT† · TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD · WATFORD

NEW SUPERSTORES:
CRAWLEY, HARROGATE, IPSWICH, PETERBOROUGH, PRESTON,
READING, SUTTON COLDFIELD, WARRINGTON

*No deposit with nothing to pay for 12 months followed by 36 equal monthly payments by direct debit. Subject to status. Written quotations available on request. Interest Free Credit is not available on clearance lines. †Not open on Sunday.



Trial puts US Nazis in the spotlight

From Tom Rhodes
in Washington

THE suspected leader of a neo-Nazi terrorist cell appeared in an Ohio courtroom yesterday on charges that promise to lift the lid on the frightening underworld of America's extreme Right.

Peter Langan, 38, has been accused of committing a string of bank robberies throughout the Midwest to raise funds for the Aryan Republican Army, a white supremacist group dedicated to the overthrow of the American Government and the death of all Jews.

The bank robberies ranged from Iowa to Wisconsin, and Kentucky to Nebraska — indeed, with 22 heists to their name, the group was credited with more banks than Jesse James.

The robbers zipped in and out of banks within five minutes and would leave inert smoke grenades and pipe bombs as calling cards.

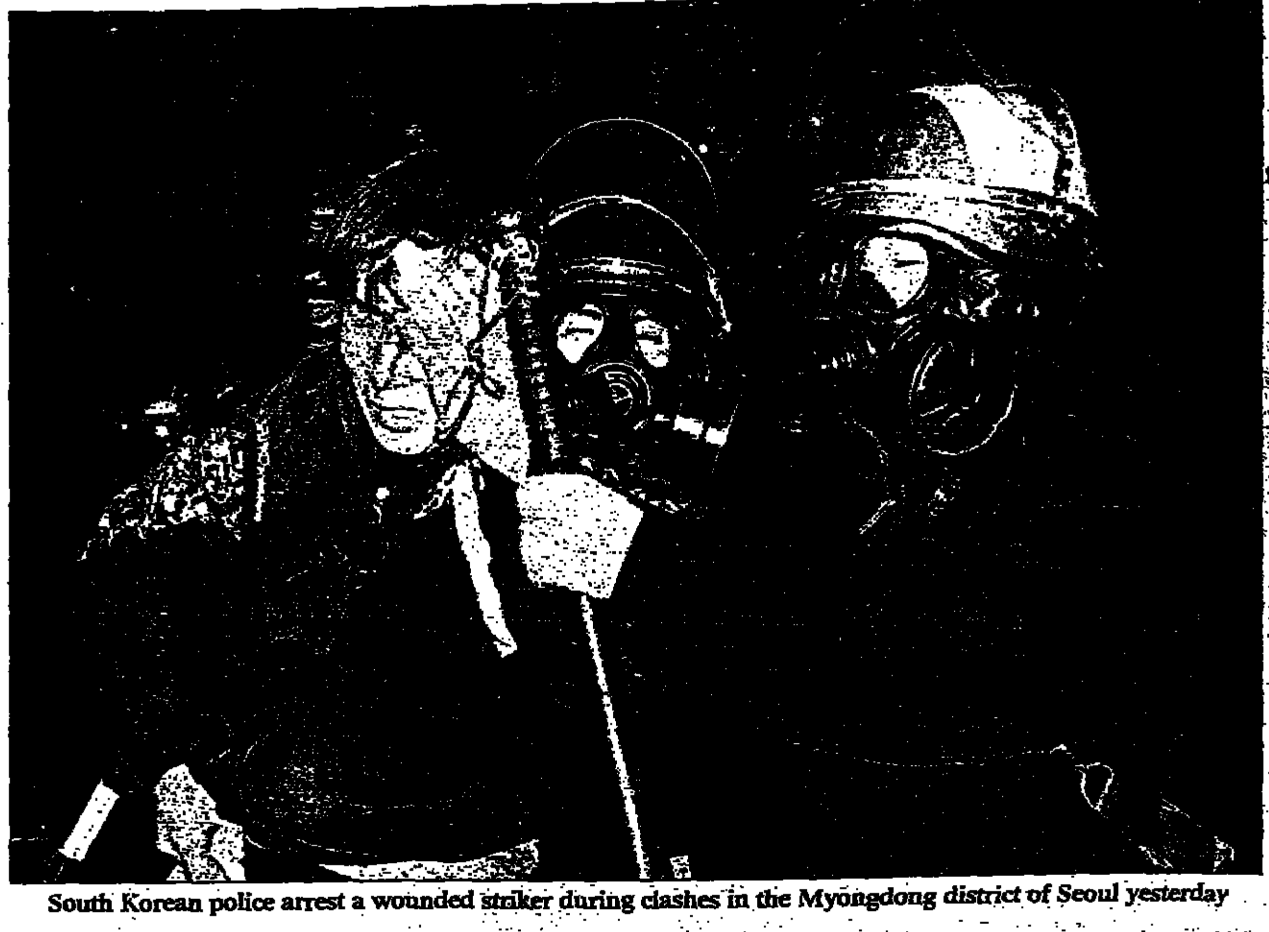
In one December robbery in Cleveland, Ohio, one suspect dressed as Santa Claus shouted "Ho, ho, ho" to customers and left a bomb tucked in a Santa hat. However, the escapades were soon treated as a matter of high priority after the FBI discovered the political message behind the group.

Although investigators have yet to prove any link to the Oklahoma bombing, this week's trial in Columbus is certain to rekindle fears about racist hate groups.

Police swoop for strike leaders in South Korea

By David Watts and Our Foreign Staff

LEE YOUNG-HO / REUTER



South Korean police arrest a wounded striker during clashes in the Myongdong district of Seoul yesterday

SOUTH KOREAN police raided the headquarters of striking trade unionists last night and were poised for a controversial attempt to remove other union leaders from Myongdong Cathedral in Seoul.

The authorities are trying to forestall what is billed as the country's biggest national strike — prompted by a new *labour law aimed at making* industry more competitive against a background of rising costs and labour inflexibility.

State prosecutors issued *warrants for seven leaders of* the militant Korean Confederation of Trade Unions to appear in court today. Kwon Young-kil, the confederation president, and *his lieutenants* huddled in a plastic tent in the cathedral grounds, guarded by car workers with iron bars, and said they would refuse to comply with the order.

"If they don't appear tomorrow *morning we will have to send a large number of police* officers to execute the warrants," a prosecution official said yesterday. Any attempt to storm the cathedral grounds would almost certainly lead to fierce clashes, reigniting strikes that began to fizzle out yesterday as workers streamed back to shipyards and car plants in response to government threats.

Earlier, a global trade union group, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, appealed to the International Labour Organisation *to intervene immediately* to prevent the seven's arrest.

On Wednesday the ministers of interior, justice and labour threatened "stern measures" *against strikes* that have been declared illegal. Earlier President Kim Young-Sam had ordered the Government to lay off 10,000 public servants. "The Government should set an example by cutting one trillion won ($1.2 billion) from the public-sector budget and 10,000 public servants to more efficiently pursue a national task," the President told cabinet *ministers at a new year meeting.*

The ruling New Korea Party forced the new law through parliament on December 26 in the absence of the opposition — and triggered the national unrest. Strikes have crippled key industries including car manufacturers and shipyards for 15 days, costing the country about $2.08 billion in lost production. Trade unionists say the law *favours management*, making it easier and less costly to lay off workers or extend their hours.

A government spokesman *said the civil service layoff* would affect 1 per cent of personnel in government organisations, but no timetable has been fixed. "The layoff will target mainly the technical-service sector such as railways and post offices," he said.

Yesterday *thousands* of workers turned central Seoul into a rubble-strewn battleground as they clashed with riot police, sending terrified shoppers racing for cover.

The Federation of Korean Trade Unions, which claims *1.2 million members*, said a two-day strike would begin on Tuesday to force the Government to dump the labour law. Power, port and railway *workers were urged to go on partial* strike and all others to join a full stoppage. "The federation calls on all its members to join the largest strike ever, led especially by the public sector," said Park In-sang, federation president. Buses and tubes *would stop* and hospitals, banks, hotels, taxis and state industries, including the tobacco monopoly, would be affected.

The unions have claimed 190,000 workers were on strike, but that number included people on work-to-rule. The labour ministry put the figure at about 75,000.

Russian jitters return as President battles with pneumonia

From Richard Beeston
and Robin Lodge
in Moscow

A SENSE of déjà vu descended on Moscow yesterday as President Yeltsin struggled to regain his health in hospital, triggering a fresh succession battle and doubts over who was running the country.

Only two weeks after the Russian leader, describing himself as "fighting fit", promised to start 1997 with vigorous leadership, his new year's resolution was in tatters as he fought off pneumonia in the Central Clinical Hospital, which has become his second home. After an absence of most of the second half of *last year because of heart bypass* surgery, his new ailment caused a familiar and disturbing sequence of events. Meetings planned for the coming two weeks were put on hold, the normally bullish Russian stock market became jittery and Mr *Yeltsin's opponents increased their* calls for his removal.

General Aleksandr Lebed, the dismissed former security chief with presidential ambitions, was the first to exploit the President's latest disappearance from office, saying that Russia was "rudderless".

"The President is badly ill," he said. "*It is a difficult age, he has had* a difficult operation, a not entirely healthy way of life for the past 40 years. It does not leave much hope.

"[Yeltsin] should tender his resignation. The President is in hospital, the Prime Minister is on holiday *and the people have not been paid.* Someone has to rule."

Doctors said yesterday that the President was being treated with antibiotics and described his condition as satisfactory. Mr Yeltsin, 65, who was suffering from a heavy cold or flu which had confined him to bed since Monday at his country *residence, was admitted to hospital* on Wednesday.

Renat Akchurin, the cardiac surgeon who led Mr Yeltsin's operating team in November, said yesterday *that there was no link between the* President's condition and his heart problems. "The post-operative period finished one month ago, so it makes no sense to connect anything with the operation," he said.

Mr Akchurin said Mr Yeltsin was *still able to perform his duties from* his hospital bed. A Kremlin statement said his temperature had returned to normal and he had held a 15-*minute telephone conversation* with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, who left Moscow as planned yesterday for a holiday outside the capital. It said the two men would *maintain* regular contact.

Aleksandr Shokhin, the deputy speaker at the State Duma and leader of the pro-government Our Home is Russia faction, said it would take Mr Yeltsin considerably *longer to recuperate this time.* He did not expect the President to leave hospital for at least two weeks.

About 64,000 Muscovites have been treated for influenza and other respiratory infections since the beginning of the month. Natalya Sukhinina, a spokeswoman for the Moscow Epidemiological Department, *said the numbers* were approximately consistent with previous years and did not amount to an epidemic. She said the flu had spread from the Far East, reaching Moscow a little later than usual this winter as a result of unseasonally warm weather until mid-December.

Hidden risks for ailing Yeltsin

MEDICAL BRIEFING

POLITICAL expediency rather than a reasoned medical approach may explain the optimism of President Yeltsin's doctors and colleagues about his lung complications.

Mr Yeltsin has had a cold, and he now has, as reported, signs of congestion at the bases of his lungs. This might well be as a result of secondary infection in the lungs after his cold, a true pneumonia, but if it was it is surprising that he has no temperature. People older than Mr Yeltsin, who is only 65, can have an acute pneumonia without a temperature, or one *which is* only slightly raised, but it would be thought that Mr Yeltsin is still sufficiently young to have a normal physical response to infection.

The alternative explanation *is that even the physical stress* of a cold has thrown him into heart failure, and his heart is no longer strong enough to maintain circulation and so prevent the lungs from becoming congested. Symptoms of early congestive cardiac failure are similar to those of basal pneumonia.

Although he has made a good enough recovery from his heart surgery, *statistics* show that patients remain at great risk for at least a year after a coronary thrombosis.

If Mr Yeltsin does have pneumonia, this too could place a burden on his cardio-respiratory *system*, which as the result of two thromboses and a multiple bypass is already under duress.

Last week's pictures of Mr Yeltsin with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, showed little improvement on his condition compared to those taken eight weeks ago. Mr Yeltsin's expression was still blank and slow to register *emotion, he has developed an* almost Parkinsonian mask. When he walks he swings his right arm more than his left, another sign of Parkinson-like troubles ahead.

Dr Thomas
Stuttaford

In the *Moben January Sale*, our Boston 11-piece kitchen is only

£2292

FULLY INSTALLED

WE CHALLENGE YOU TO CHECK THIS MOBEN SALE KITCHEN AND THESE NEFF APPLIANCES AGAINST ANY OTHER UK MANUFACTURER

CHECK THE KITCHEN
CHECK THE SERVICE

1 x 500mm WALL CABINET WITH SOLID OAK DOOR
1 x 1000mm WALL CABINET FEATURING LEADED GLASS DOOR
DECORATIVE COOKER CANOPY
2 x 500mm BASE CABINETS WITH SOLID OAK DOORS
2 x 500mm BASE SHELVING UNITS WITH FRIEZE
OVEN HOUSING UNIT
BREAKFAST BAR
END AND BASE PANELS
ALL CORNICE MOULDINGS
ALL HANDLES, KNOBS AND HINGES
ALL LIGHT BAFFLES
CO-ORDINATING PLINTHS AND SHELVES
2 x FORMICA 40mm THICK WORKTOPS
PROFESSIONAL KITCHEN DESIGN AND PLANNING
DETAILED ON-SITE SURVEY
REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF YOUR OLD KITCHEN
INSTALLATION
JOINERY WORK
WORKTOPS FITTED, JOINTED AND MITRED ON-SITE
NEFF APPLIANCES INSTALLED, WIRED AND CONNECTED† WHERE APPLICABLE
GAS PLUMBING† BY CORGI REGISTERED FITTERS
FULL GUARANTEE
FULL AFTER SALES SERVICE

SAVE £650 ON NEFF APPLIANCES

OVEN, HOB AND DISHWASHER ~~£1149~~ NOW ONLY £499

NEFF B1420 CIRCOTHERM OVEN & GRILL
MAN. REC. PRICE £420
FULLY INSTALLED†

NEFF T2113 GAS HOB
MAN. REC. PRICE £170
FULLY INSTALLED†

NEFF S121-15i INTEGRATED DISHWASHER††
MAN. REC. PRICE £559
FULLY INSTALLED†

Limited stocks. You may purchase only one of each of the above detailed types of appliance when you purchase a fitted kitchen at a price of £2290 or more, ie: only 1 oven, 1 hob, 1 dishwasher regardless of manufacturer or model. Integrated doors available where required at extra cost.

LONDON
BARKINGSIDE 0181 551 6382
BROMLEY 0181 466 6519
CHINGFORD 0181 559 3787
CHISWICK 0181 987 9279
CLAPHAM 0171 223 3415
EALING 0181 810 0403
FINCHLEY 0181 349 1898
GOLDERS GREEN 0181 731 7493
GUILDFORD 01483 440096
KINGSTON 0181 974 5924
LEWISHAM 0181 318 9349
LONDON (W1) 0171 935 3406
LONDON (W14) 0171 603 8519
LONDON (NW8) 0171 483 0296
LONDON (SW10) 0171 352 8818
MILL HILL (N'BASE) 0181 202 0084
MUSWELL HILL 0181 883 1795
PALMERS GREEN 0181 882 9289
RICHMOND 0181 332 2221
SURBITON 0181 390 1351
SUTTON 0181 643 9272
TWICKENHAM 0181 744 0276
WELLING 0181 298 7783
WIMBLEDON 0181 947 3502
WOOD GREEN 0181 365 8173
SOUTH EAST
ASHFORD 01233 666017
AYLESBURY 01296 397891
BANSTEAD 01737 370067
BARNET 0181 449 9751
BASILDON 01268 272682
BEDFORD 01234 326447
BEXLEY HEATH 0181 303 6025
BRACKNELL 01344 481234
BRENTWOOD 01277 226052
CAMBERLEY 01276 675864
CANTERBURY 01227 784366
CHATHAM 01634 829013
CLACTON-ON-SEA 01255 436133
CRAWLEY 01293 513504
CROYDON 0181 688 7785
DORKING 01306 877620
ENFIELD 0181 366 6345
EPPING 01992 561753
EPSOM 01372 743359
FARNHAM 01252 734483
GRAVESEND 01474 334057
HARLOW 01279 444286
HARROW 0181 863 9096
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD 01442 64348
HIGH WYCOMBE 01494 485690
HITCHIN 01462 457200
HORSHAM 01403 276005
ILFORD 0181 514 7597
LEATHERHEAD 01372 361607
LOUGHTON 0181 508 9806
LUTON 01582 481459
MAIDENHEAD 01628 778170
MAIDSTONE 01622 873337
NEWBURY 01635 580623
ORPINGTON 01689 835824
PURLEY 0181 763 1141
READING 01734 594372
REDHILL 01737 779560
REIGATE 01737 225598
ROMFORD 01708 743290
RUISLIP 01895 622103
ST ALBANS 01727 858370
SEVENOAKS 01732 741215
SLOUGH 01753 571902
STAINES 01784 466783
STEVENAGE 01438 311786
THURROCK 01708 868349
TUNBRIDGE WELLS 01892 537011
WALTON-ON-THAMES 01932 228391
WATFORD 01923 254413
WELWYN GARDEN CITY 01707 392278
WEYBRIDGE 01932 854428
WINDSOR 01753 620963
WOKING 01483 740518
WOKINGHAM 01734 793343
EAST ANGLIA
BURY ST EDMUNDS 01284 765923
CAMBRIDGE 01223 328094
CHELMSFORD 01245 352705
COLCHESTER 01206 564565
IPSWICH 01473 214588
NORWICH 01603 620238
PETERBOROUGH 01733 558641
SOUTH
BASINGSTOKE 01256 842772
BOURNEMOUTH 01202 530854
FAREHAM 01329 826627
PLYMOUTH 01752 603483
PORTSMOUTH 01705 829551
SOUTHAMPTON 01703 633377
SOUTHAMPTON (GL.MILLS) 01489 795336
WINCHESTER 01962 840578
WORTHING 01903 217880
THE MIDLANDS
BANBURY 01295 269120
BIRMINGHAM 0121 631 1578
BROMSGROVE 01527 576743
BURTON-ON-TRENT 01283 539752
COVENTRY 01203 228866
COVENTRY (WALSGRAVE) 01203 610048
DERBY 01332 835288
DUDLEY 01384 74175
HEREFORD 01432 269095
KIDDERMINSTER 01562 825747
LEAMINGTON SPA 01926 425218
LEICESTER 0116 255 5618
LICHFIELD 01543 417563
LINCOLN 01522 576585
LOUGHBOROUGH 01509 218924
MANSFIELD 01623 427200
MKT. HARBORO' 01858 468064
M. MOWBRAY 01664 481630
MILTON KEYNES 01908 231894
NORTHAMPTON 01604 38784
NOTTINGHAM 0115 988 1356
NUNEATON 01203 385339
OXFORD 01865 742618
REDDITCH 01527 61799
SHREWSBURY 01743 236590
SOLIHULL 0121 711 7384
STAFFORD 01785 220258
SUTTON COLDFIELD 0121 355 7328
WALSALL 01922 39054
WOLVERHAMPTON 01902 24818
WORCESTER 01905 21156
WALES & THE SOUTH WEST
BATH 01225 461182
BRIDGWATER 01278 446243
BRISTOL 0117 925 2454
BRISTOL (EASTGATE) 0117 951 3927
CARDIFF 01222 666239
CHELTENHAM 01242 256020
EXETER 01392 424749
GLOUCESTER 01452 331361
GLOUCESTER (GL.MILLS) 01452 505820
NEWPORT 01633 272711
SWANSEA 01792 773488
SWINDON 01793 484089
TAUNTON 01823 351171
WESTON-S-MARE (GL.MILLS) 01934 [illegible]
WREXHAM 01978 313881

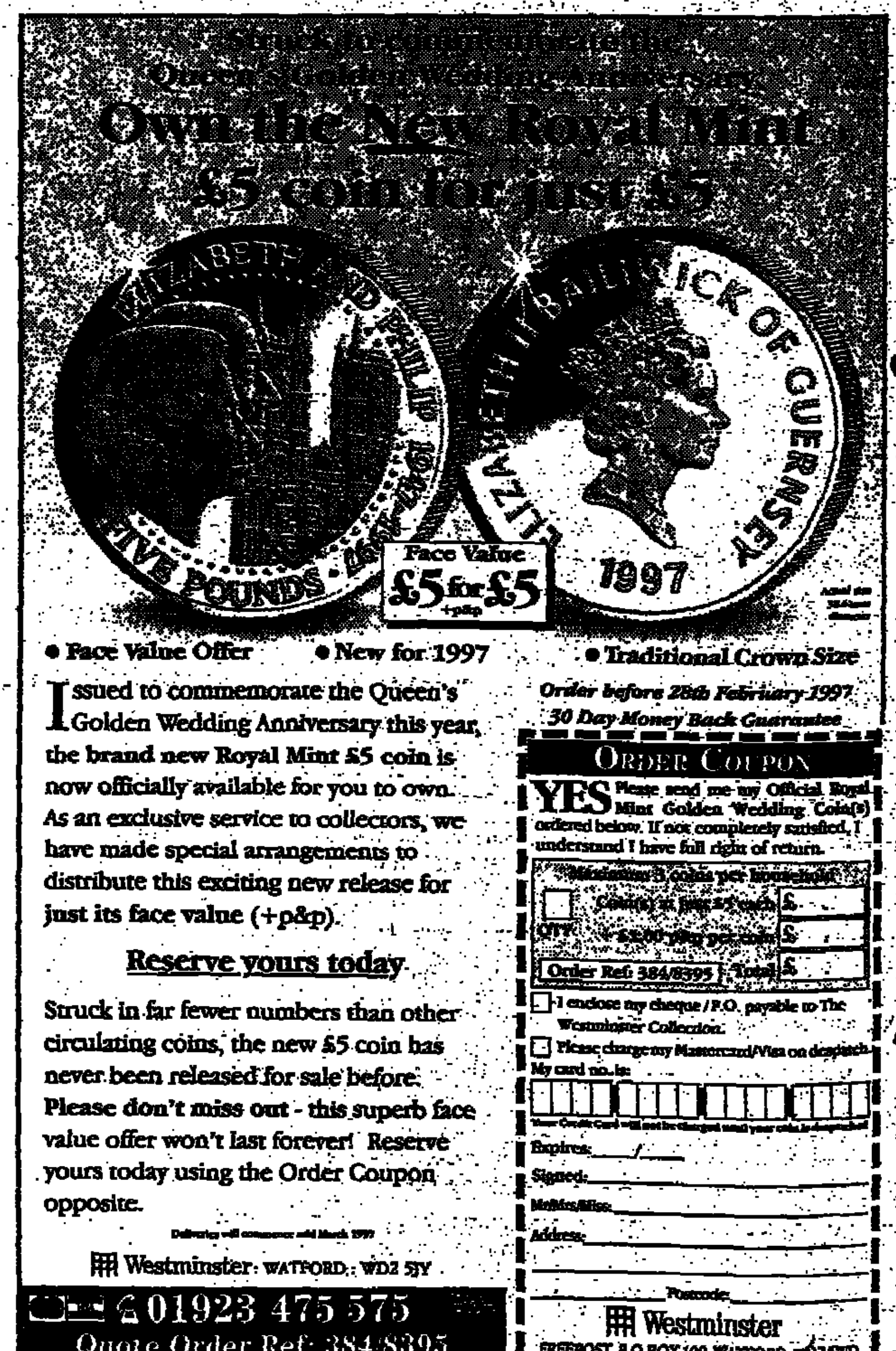
IF YOU CAN'T VISIT A SHOWROOM PHONE FREE

0800 616747

SHOWROOMS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
MON - FRI 10.00am - 5.30pm
SATURDAY 9.00am - 5.30pm
SUN 10.00am - 4.00pm

MOBEN

THE KITCHEN WITH NO HIDDEN EXTRAS



Struck to commemorate the Queen's Golden Wedding Anniversary

Own the New Royal Mint £5 coin for just £5

Face Value £5 for £5 +p&p

- Face Value Offer
- New for 1997
- Traditional Crown Size

Issued to commemorate the Queen's Golden Wedding Anniversary this year, the brand new Royal Mint £5 coin is now officially available for you to own. As an exclusive service to collectors, we have made special arrangements to distribute this exciting new release for just its face value (+p&p).

Reserve yours today

Struck in far fewer numbers than other circulating coins, the new £5 coin has never been released for sale before. Please don't miss out - this superb face value offer won't last forever! Reserve yours today using the Order Coupon opposite.

Westminster: WATFORD: WD2 5JY

01923 475 575
Quote Order Ref: 384/8395

Order before 28th February 1997
30 Day Money Back Guarantee

ORDER COUPON

YES Please send me my Official Royal Mint Golden Wedding Coin(s) ordered below. If not completely satisfied, I understand I have full right of return.

Order Ref: 384/8395 Total £

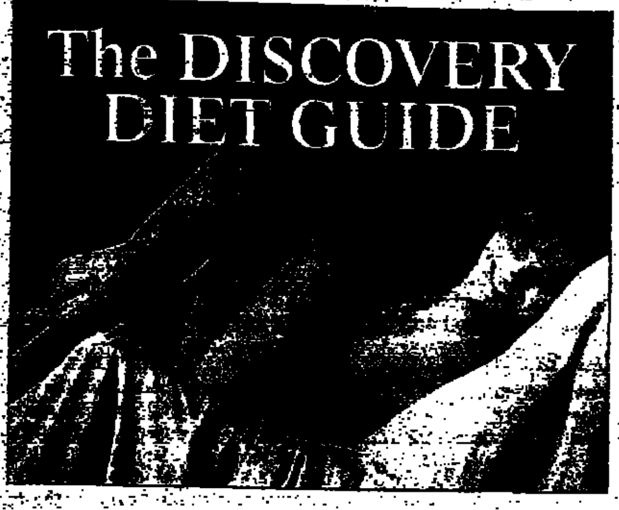
☐ I enclose my cheque / P.O. payable to The Westminster Collection.
☐ Please charge my Mastercard/Visa on despatch. My card no. is:

Expires: ___/___
Signed: ___
Mr/Mrs/Miss: ___
Address: ___
Postcode: ___

Westminster
FREEPOST, P.O.BOX 100, WATFORD, WD2 5WD

هكذا من الأصل

The healing power of plants



Homoeopathy matches cures to the lifestyle and personality of the patient, and in some cases it comes close to therapy.

Grace Bradberry reports

TELEGRAPH COLOUR LIBRARY

"A homoeopathic remedy can alter the way the body uses food. Prescribed correctly, it can help the body to assimilate nutrients more effectively and help with anxiety and depression"

Lynne Howard came to homoeopathy the way most people do: by serendipity. In her mid-twenties, and working as a psychiatric social worker, she found herself suffering from indigestion.

After a fruitless expedition to the GP, she visited a homoeopath. For an hour, they discussed her work, her personality, her emotional, family and medical history. She was given nux vomica (strychnine), and the problem went away.

Soon after, she found herself running counselling groups for people suffering from anxieties and phobias. She was fully trained for the work, and also had a degree in psychology, but progress was extremely slow. Gradually she introduced homoeopathic remedies (many of which can be used for emotional complaints) and began to see results.

> 'A capsule contains a good balance of nutrients they need'

She embarked on a four-year training course at the College of Homoeopathy, and also completed postgraduate work to become a Member of the College of Homoeopathy. Nine years later, at the age of 37, she has clinics in London and Essex, and also works at the Life Centre in Notting Hill.

Many of those she sees come to her with problems that have a dietary connection — indigestion, water retention, and, more seriously, bulimia and anorexia.

Howard is not a nutritionist. So how can she help? "I believe that a homoeopathic remedy can actually alter the way the body uses food," she says. "Prescribed correctly, it can help the body to assimilate nutrients more effectively."

It can also, she believes, tackle the physical cravings and emotional problems that can make it so difficult to eat the things we know we should.

Most people now know that homoeopathy is based on the theory of treating like with like. The name comes from the Greek word meaning "similar suffering", and homoeopaths believe an illness that might be caused by a large dose of a particular substance can be cured by a far smaller dose.

Most remedies are derived from plants, but minerals, metals and some poisons are also used. The extracts are repeatedly diluted in a solution of alcohol and water, then used in liquid form or soaked into tablets or granules.

But for holistic DIY enthusiasts, homoeopathy can appear ineffectual and imprecise. Several remedies are often suggested for a single problem, followed by screeds on who should take what. Far more, perhaps, than other forms of complementary medicine, homoeopathy takes account of personality. One woman suffering from premenstrual tension might be off-hand to her parter and generally ratty. Another could be weepy and clingy. A homoeopath would give a different treatment to each.

In fact, a session with the homoeopath can be close to therapy. "If a woman came to me with period pains, I might want to go back to the time when her periods started, and go through the whole medical and emotional history," says Howard. "Then I'd want to know about the family history — did their mothers, grandmothers have these problems? I'd also ask about any traumas. Perhaps their parents divorced, or they were sent to boarding school. Sometimes when you construct a time-line it becomes clear that a medical problem coincided with an emotional one, and I might prescribe a remedy for grief."

So homoeopathy's individualised approach, matching the cure to the lifestyle and personality of the patient, accords with the current theory that dietary needs vary from person to person.

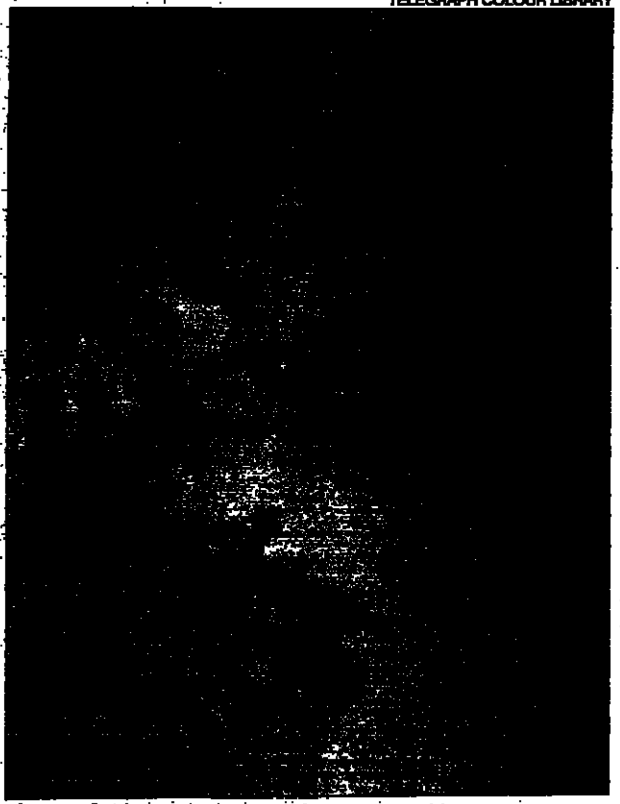
It is possible to treat oneself for a few trivial complaints, but for anything with deeper causes (particularly hormonal) self-prescription would be at best ineffectual. "I wouldn't recommend anyone to attempt a detoxification programme on their own," says Howard. "In some cases it can give you flu-like symptoms, so you do need supervision. If someone were spring-cleaning their system, I might give them nux vomica or sulphur to encourage the elimination process."

What many of us want to know, of course, is whether homoeopathy can help us to lose weight. "I would never say I'd help women to slim. Besides, lots of women go on diets when they don't need to. But if someone has a genuine weight problem, then I would try to help with the underlying causes. Let's face it, most people know the basic dietary rules, but they cannot control themselves."

One of her favourite nutritional supplements is the unappetisingly named blue-green algae. "A capsule will contain a good balance of nutrients they need, so they don't have to keep focusing on food, while homoeopathic remedies can help with anxieties and depressions." Other remedies can help with the anxieties and depressions that can lead to bingeing or loss of appetite.

Stay healthy for your baby

TELEGRAPH COLOUR LIBRARY



The developing foetus absorbs salts from its mother

DURING pregnancy, the baby requires certain salts. It gets these at the expense of the mother. This homoeopathic programme will help to make good any salt deficiencies in the mother, and will assist the developing baby in meeting its salt requirement.

Calc Fluor (calcium fluoride) helps to ensure strong bone development and elasticity of connective tissue, helping the mother to avoid stretch marks. It should be taken in tablet form twice a day between the second and ninth month of pregnancy.

Mag Phos (magnesium phosphate) is useful for combating heartburn and ensuring good nerve development in the baby. It should be taken between the second and the seventh month and taken in tablet form twice a day.

Ferr Phos (ferrous phosphate) is useful in ensuring good blood oxygenation and should be taken from the second month of the pregnancy onwards.

Natrum mur (sodium chloride) should be taken between the third and eighth month of the pregnancy and is good for helping to control liquid balance, thus helping to prevent swollen ankles.

Silica, which should be taken between the fourth and and nine month, is generally good for ensuring strong bones and teeth and for good all-round health.

In addition, raspberry-leaf tea or raspberry-leaf tablets can be taken daily from the fourth month. This will help to strengthen the uterus for delivery. To make raspberry-leaf tea, add three teaspoons of raspberry leaves to one pint of boiling water. This can be cooled and kept in the fridge. The raspberry-leaf dosage is one cup or three tablets from 20 weeks, two cups or six tablets from 28 weeks and three cups or nine tablets from 36 weeks.

How to cope with PMT

LYNNE HOWARD recommends three remedies for premenstrual tension, according to personality and physical symptoms:

Sepia: symptoms include the desire to be alone, indifference to loved ones and a tendency to be sarcastic. She has back pains and feels cold much of the time.

Pulsatilla: the woman becomes affectionate, vulnerable and weepy. She feels abandoned and behaves submissively, trying to please everyone around her. There is a desire for fresh air, an aversion to heat, fats and rich foods, but no thirst.

Natrum mur: She has a tendency to feel rejected, yet at the same time wants to be alone. She also dwells on bad things that have happened, clinging to past relationships. Craves salt, feels warm and experiences a strong thirst for cold drinks.

Howard also offers remedies for indigestion:

Nux vomica: the classic high-flyer — independent, desperate to succeed, unable to relax. Tends to feel cold, craves stimulants, particularly coffee and wine. Often suffers nausea or heartburn in the morning.

Sulphur: an ideas person who tends to philosophise, connecting one thing with another, and surrounding herself with mess. Craves sweets and spicy food and often becomes weak from hunger around 11am.

Lycopodium: lacks confidence. Compensates by being haughty or by boasting. Has wind. Tends to avoid taking on new things. Craves sweets and hot foods.

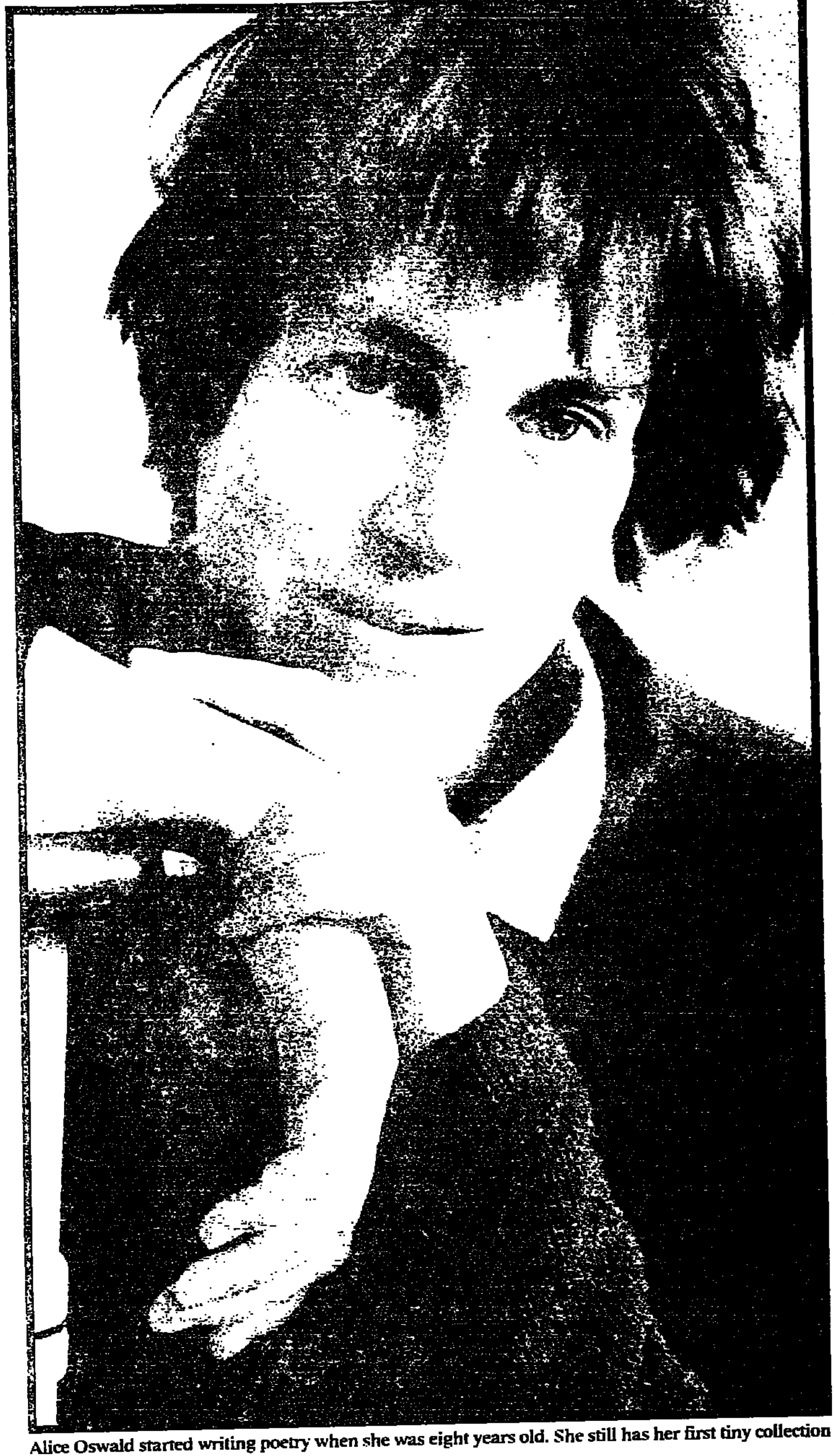
HULA-BALOO
JULIE! ITS TEA-TIME
HAVE YOU GONE MAD? YOU'RE A BIT UNDER DRESSED FOR TEA!
I'M JUST MAD ABOUT THE SAVINGS I GOT FROM THOMAS COOK ON MY HOLIDAY!
OOH!

15% OFF ALL SUMMER HAYES and JARVIS FARAWAY HOLIDAYS OR FREE INSURANCE
KENYA FROM £399*
ANTIGUA FROM £424*
OPEN THIS SUNDAY
Thomas Cook have got some fantastic deals on Summer '97 Hayes and Jarvis worldwide holidays with 15% off Summer 1997 departures or you can receive Thomas Cook Travel Insurance absolutely free. We'll then give you a weekend break for two with three nights' free accommodation at one of over 200 seaside and country hotels throughout the UK and Ireland. All we ask is that you buy your breakfast and evening meals in the hotel. So hurry down to your local Thomas Cook shop, or book by phone quoting TC288 or see Teletext page 268.
PLUS BOOK NOW AND GET A WEEKEND BREAK WITH FREE ACCOMMODATION
Credit Card Booking Line 0990 777 555 OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
The nice surprise is the prices.
Thomas Cook
All offers are available for a limited period only, are not retrospective and may be withdrawn or altered without notice. All holidays are subject to availability. Offers apply to all Summer '97 faraway holidays departing between 1 May - 31 October 1997. For free insurance offer, full premiums must be paid at time of booking and the value of these will be deducted from the balance of the holiday cost when it is paid. Discount and Thomas Cook Breakaway offers are each subject to each traveller purchasing Thomas Cook Recommended Insurance at the time of booking – typical premium £43.70 per person for 9 days cover. For full terms and conditions of each offer please see leaflet in-store. A handling charge of 1% applies to payment by credit/charge card. #Switch and major credit cards accepted. Open Monday - Friday 9am-6pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. To ensure quality customer service, calls to Thomas Cook Direct are recorded. The Thomas Cook Group Limited. ABTA 20606. ATOL 0265 - also acting as agent for other ATOL holders. *Kenya departure between 1 May 1997 and 17 July 1997, Antigua departure between 16 May 1997 and 19 July 1997 from Hayes and Jarvis worldwide brochure for 1997. Prices based on two adults sharing. Other departures and prices available on request.

Competition for the T. S. Eliot award is stiff, but Alice Oswald has been tipped as the romantic outsider who could carry it off

A garden path to poetry's prize list

SUSANNAH BINNEY



Alice Oswald started writing poetry when she was eight years old. She still has her first tiny collection

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

Alice Oswald and her husband Peter are like the Romantics. Both aged 30, handsome, clever and impecunious, they subsist uncompromisingly on writing. Alice writes poems and Peter writes verse plays, two formidably thorny and elusive paths to fame and fortune.

Thanks to the largesse of the Dartington Trust, they live for the moment, with their new baby Joe, in a grey council-style house on the Dartington estate in Devon, "like those hermits," Alice says, "who lived in posh people's grottoes in the 18th century".

On Sunday evening Alice will be in London, reading her poems at the Almeida Theatre, along with others shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize for the best new collection of poetry this year — the £5,000 winner will be announced on Monday.

Since the shortlist also includes Seamus Heaney, John Fuller, Adrian Mitchell and Christopher Reid, she is gratifyingly (if unluckily) pitted against the best and most established names. Still, Radio 4's *Kaleidoscope* this week picked her out as an unusually distinctive and promising new voice with "the beginnings of real authority — something like the early Ted Hughes".

Mr Hughes is indeed her hero. He lives somewhere very close by, but she would never be so importunate as to forage, even circuitously, for an introduction.

She is a self-contained young woman: original, spare and strange, incapable of polite platitudes, not terribly fond of talking at all, and utterly committed to practising what Anne Sexton called The Black Art ("A woman who writes feels too much: Those trances and portents..."). To pursue the poet's life, she has worked for eight years as a gardener.

I first came across her in 1994 in the fishing village of Clovelly, Devon, with its steep picturesque cobbled slope down to the sea. With donkeys for hire outside the garden gate, she was occupying a spartan tied cottage with one hideously uncomfortable armchair, a bare lightbulb, no heating, no telephone: two tiny rooms that kept the sun out and let the cold in.

By day, she toiled, for £150 a week, in the walled garden of a manor house, Clovelly Court. She would get up at 4am to write, wrapped in blankets, her hands always icy. But she said she did not believe in creature comforts: "You have more energy if you are physically fighting something."

She had just won an Eric Gregory award, £6,000 presented by V.S. Naipaul, and felt tremendously grateful to Eric Gregory (a printer who left money to encourage young poets) for making such a difference to her life. But she was equally gratified to be growing a Charentais melon. She had written a poem about a melon grower, and then tried it herself. Most of her poems — not then published in book form — had horticultural themes. Her mother, the gardening consultant and writer Mary Keen, says she can identify the gardens Alice was working at when she wrote a particular poem — *The Glass House* while at Lord Rothschild's house, Waddesdon, Buckinghamshire; *Pruning in Frost* at Cliveden.

This year she no longer has to weed or dig, thanks to a £10,000 cheque from the Arts Council. When Lord Gowrie presented it to her, she carried her baby, named Joseph Michaelmas as he was born on Michaelmas Day, in her arms.

In fact, things are looking altogether promising for the Oswalds. Peter's play *Fair Ladies At A Game of Poem Cards*, based on an 18th-century Japanese puppet play, is running at the National Theatre; another is in rehearsal at the Gate. A letter commissioning him to write a new verse play for the Globe Theatre lies on the kitchen table.

They have no car or television, but they do now have heating, plus a telephone and fax, so there is communication with the modern world beyond the frozen fields outside. "It's like a university campus here," Alice says, "except there are no scientists in glasses, only creative people. And it's wonderful to have a baby, to bring a touch of real life to balance all the artiness." The sounds of Joseph on her lap, making the usual baby noises, punctuate our conversation.

Alice had a charmed childhood with two sisters and a brother — people called them the Brontës — in a series of country houses where her mother would create enchanted gardens.

They were the sort of family who gathered round the piano with the *Faber Popular Reciter*. "We were very close: a gang of children in an aesthetically amazing, protected environment." Alice was the silent, deep one; "infuriating sometimes" her mother says, adding that geniuses do often have a tough time. When she slept outside, the scent of nicotiana would keep her awake. "It probably influenced my wanting to write — to create a portable form of garden."

When Alice was eight, after a sleepless night feeling terrified of the dark in a bedroom thought to be haunted, she wrote her first poem. She still has the tiny collection with the pencilled title "Poems by Alice Keen aged 8yrs". They are about storms at night, fears of lightning, dustbin men, being bored, and something called the snapper-tooth beast that eats you alive. She used to hide her notebook under the hydrangeas, in case anyone should find it.

When Alice left Oxford, having read Classics at New College — she met her husband in their first term — she took to gardening as a reaction against all that abstract brain work and as a means of getting a place to live. She learnt then that "gardens are not made by crying, 'Oh! how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade."

At Wisley, the Royal Horticultural Society headquarters, she learnt the skills of propagation and how to prune an apple tree by imagining a goblet shape. "I loved the physical, energetic side of gardening. It changed my whole way of looking at the world. When I got to Wisley just after the gales of January 1990, I was sawing up a birch tree and noticed how catkins are male and female and imagined the little birch weddings on the end of the twigs. I realised that order is not something you impose, but emanates from the subject. I still wrote love sonnets, but I realised there was no point in writing about the natural world in a formal and orderly way."

She served an apprenticeship with the National Trust at Cliveden. Clipping box hedges all day meant "floating beyond the threshold of boredom. I like the detail of gardens. I see them not as pretty places, but as an extraordinary collection of life-forms. I was a gardener to be able to write, rather than to be able to garden."

Her first book of poems — shortlisted for the Whitbread Prize too — came out last March: entitled *The Thing in the Gap-stone Stile*, a reference to the gap in drystone walls, to make a foothold for climbing, "like a gap-toothed smile. It's the sensation of being between two places, a magical moment: that kind of space is what I try to create in my poems." I recommend *The Three Wise Men of Gotnam who Set Out to Catch the Moon in a Net*, a long dramatic poem written while working by the Cornish sea.

Last year found her at the Chelsea Physic Garden, until pregnancy intervened: "We thought of going to live in the trees at Newbury, but suddenly realised that it might not be a good idea to be pregnant up a tree." Instead she wrote, appropriately, a poem about Sisyphus.

The baby was born after a long labour soothed by a birth pool. "We had decided to cope entirely on our own, with no help from mothers or sisters. We thought it would all come naturally. But it didn't: we couldn't understand why he screamed, and I soon cracked.

"I had to go back into hospital, my blood pressure was so high, and Peter had to be at the National for rehearsals; so I went to stay with my mother and learnt about baby care, on long walks through frozen woods, with the baby in a sling of which my mother disapproves."

She also had her Rapunzel mane of hair cut off: "It's the kind of thing women do when they have a baby. I wanted to look uncompromising and furious."

"Sleepless poets painful vigils keep," as Pope said, and her next collection will perhaps reflect how a poet-mother adapts to writing in brief interstices of time.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM WOOLWICH DIRECT.
UP TO
£10,000
CASHBACK

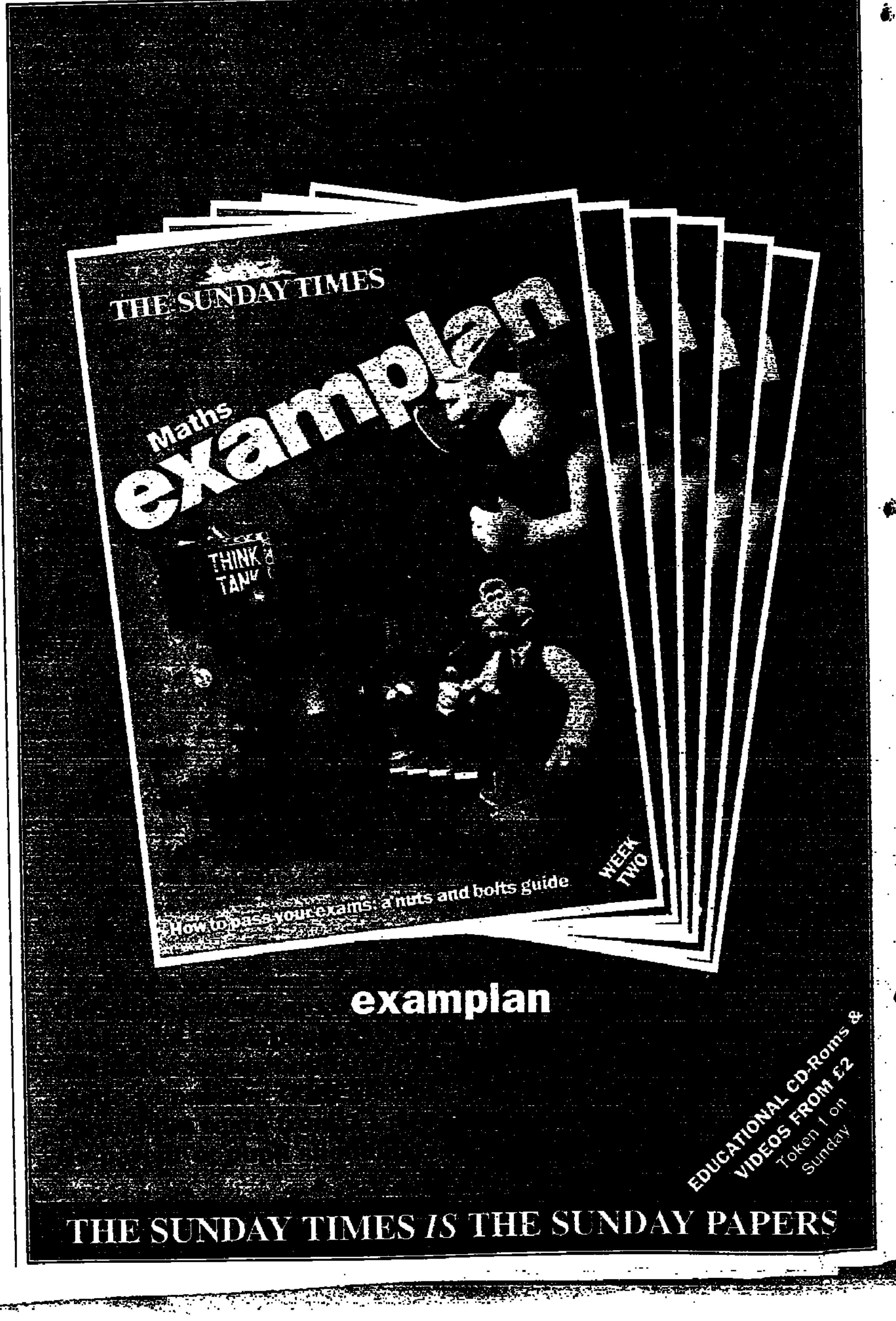
Celebrate the New Year with Woolwich Direct's new Cashback Mortgage. Borrow up to 85% of our valuation at the Society's standard variable rate, currently 7.29% (7.5% APR), and we'll send you a cheque for 4% of the loan (up to £10,000) after completion. Call us now on 0645 75 75 75 for a personal quotation in minutes, quoting reference: TY101.

Get much more with
WOOLWICH
DIRECT
0645 75 75 75

For your security, telephone conversations may be recorded. 8.30am - 9.00pm MON - FRI: 9.00am - 3.00pm SAT: 10.00am - 2.00pm SUN Internet address: woolwich-direct@e-mail.com

The cashback represents 4.0% of the advance, up to a maximum cashback of £10,000. The Cashback Mortgage is available through Woolwich Direct to all new mortgage customers (including remortgages) and existing Woolwich customers who are moving home. The interest rate is variable throughout the term and the APR is variable and typical. The 4.0% cashback offer applies only where a written offer of advance was issued on or after 28.12.95 and the mortgage completed by 30.04.97. Typical example based on an interest only loan. An interest rate of 7.29% 7.5% APR and a purchase price of £70,000, a couple taking out a mortgage of £52,000 over 25 years (where the amount of the advance is 74% of the Society's valuation of the property) would pay interest of £315.90 per month gross (300 payments). Valuer's fee £155.00. Application fee £195.00. Telegraphic Transfer fee £25. Solicitor's mortgage charges £100.00. Deeds Administration Fee payable on redemption £50.00 and a single repayment of capital of £52,000. Total amount payable £147,295.00, 7.29%, 7.5% APR. A first charge over your property will be required as security. For interest only loans, you are advised to arrange a suitable repayment vehicle to repay the capital at the end of the mortgage term. If the mortgage is either redeemed in full or in part or transferred to another scheme before the fourth anniversary of the date on which interest is first charged in respect of the mortgage, the value of the cashback you have received must be repaid in full. All mortgages are subject to status, valuation and a minimum age of 18. A written quotation is available on request from Woolwich Direct, PO Box 600, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5UE. Woolwich Direct is a service provided by Woolwich Building Society which represents only the Woolwich Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance and unit trust business. All rates correct at time of going to press.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. CB1


THE SUNDAY TIMES
Maths
examplan
THINK TANK
How to pass your exams: a nuts and bolts guide
WEEK TWO
examplan
EDUCATIONAL CD-Roms & VIDEOS FROM £2
Token 1 on Sunday
THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Roger Boyes profiles Ernst Jünger; plus an extract from Thomas Nevin's new biography of the German warrior poet

Witness to the moment of death

As old as the century, Ernst Jünger is one of its most remarkable writers

High on a shelf in Ernst Jünger's orderly house sits the steel helmet that saved him from a warrior's death and allowed him to live to the age of 101. Helmut Kohl admired it and so too did François Mitterrand when they visited the still-sharp writer who is regarded as one of the most controversial literary figures of the century.

Why should two modern statesmen pay homage to a man depicted as the spiritual founder of fascism; a militarist who coolly analyses the shadings of blood squirting from a dying soldier?

Baudelaire believed that only three men were worthy of respect: the priest, the warrior and the poet. To know, to kill, to create. Jünger embodies all three qualities — and one might even say that only through killing did he come to his knowledge, his moral certainties and his laconic poetic style. The battlefield bound Jünger to Mitterrand and Kohl, as did a vision of Europe crafted as an act of intellectual resistance during the Second World War.

Mitterrand, in his final speech abroad, recalled his admiration for the human qualities of German soldiers. Kohl, too young to fight, remembers war as a time of separation from his parents, the death of his brother, of hunger and a battered home town. Kohl's heroes are the post-war rebuilders, not Jünger's men in uniform. But he can find common ground with a national conservative, philosopher and patriot who kept his distance from the Nazis (not far enough, say the critics).

Jünger's real contemporary fascination for these two statesmen was a long essay entitled *The Peace*, written in 1941 and updated with the knowledge of German atrocities in the spring of 1944. Its subtitle was "A Word to the Youth of Europe" and it was a remarkable attempt to see beyond a lost war into a new, remodelled Europe.

Hitler had failed to understand that Europe could not be unified by force. Jünger had hoped that the French could come to love their German occupiers. That hope had been dashed. Now, he argued, it was time for economic, technological and political unity in Europe. The essay was shown to Erwin Rommel and other senior officers close to the July 1944 plot against Hitler. They liked the text and were at ease with the idea that a unified Europe could be governed only by authoritarian rule.

That was the closest Jünger came to an act of resistance to Hitler. Many of those who read the essay in 1944 died soon afterwards at the end of a Nazi executioner's rope. Jünger, perhaps because of his strange, almost personal relationship with Hitler, was not put on trial. His low level of resistance set against his physical courage and his clear-sighted perception of Nazi weakness has confused critics, especially those on the Left.

The biographical transitions seem too jagged — from a First World War lieutenant, 13 times wounded, to a conservative polemicist who refused to enter parliament on a Nazi ticket or to join the Nazi-dominated Poetry Academy; from polemicist to cultured Wehrmacht officer in occupied France and, after the war, the author of an extraordinary range of work including a book about drugs and even a detective novel. Yet the passages are not unusual for a German intellectual; the oddity is in his survival.

The Nazis courted Jünger, but could not engage him

Jünger was a tearaway teenager. At 16 he ran away to France, signed up for the Foreign Legion and was posted to North Africa. His father bought him out, but only after his son had learnt to shoot and march. That put him in good stead for the 1914-18 War. He was sent to the front and was immediately seized with excitement. "The overpowering wish to kill winged my steps. Fury squeezed bitter tears from me."

This intoxication, this animal urge, sat alongside a gentlemanly code of conduct. All of his war books, but in particular *Storm of Steel*, pay respect to the English. A wounded English soldier flashes a family photograph in a last desperate act of defence and Jünger decides not to kill. The descriptions of the war are powerful. At the Somme, the dead "dissolved into a greenish fishmeat that glowed at night through their tan uniforms. When stepped upon, they left phosphorous tracks..." Jünger is an entomologist. His house is a small museum of some 40,000 skewered beetles, each one precisely classified. The same skills are brought to bear in describing the misery of both wars. But in his First World War memoirs there was an intensity, missing from his later work. It was this and his commitment to the intrinsic value of combat that made him an intellectual celebrity of the inter-war years.

The Nazis courted Jünger but they could not engage him. The mediocrity of Goebbels and Goering offended Jünger's aristocratic sensibilities. In *The Worker*, published in 1932, he set out a totalitarian future in which social control was exercised by those who could manipulate the levers of technological change. His concern in this and other works was concentrated more on Stalin and Bolshevism than on Hitler and Nazism. Critics say this distancing from National Socialism was a moral desertion, that Jünger should have spoken out on the worsening anti-Semitic climate. The beneficiary of a private income, Jünger was sheltered from some of the problems experienced by his colleagues — the bullying and the persecution of Jews.

Jünger fans point, in his defence, to the 1939 work *On The Marble Cliffs*, which paints a grim metaphor of totalitarian rule, adding a bit of Stalin and a bit of Goering (although not Hitler) to his portrayal of a sinister ruler known as the Forest Ranger. The opening line, with echoes of Dante, gives a hint of the man behind the cold mask of a spectator at the feast of tyrants. "All of you know the wild grief that seizes us in the remembrance of happy times."

As Jünger approaches his 102nd birthday, how much "wild grief" still seethes below the surface? He has lost a wife, a son in battle and a son to suicide; to live so long is to outlive not only contemporaries but also their grandchildren. Prophecies come true or fall hopelessly by the wayside. All that is left is a kind of internal ordering to fend off the chaos. As Nabokov sought solace in butterflies, so Jünger now prefers the company of beetles to human beings.

Jackboots in Paris: Ernst Jünger hoped that the French would grow to love their German occupiers

Jünger describes how he was ordered to oversee the execution of a deserter by firing squad in Paris

Jünger's works, especially the greatest of them, the chronicles of two wars, will endure. His place in German literary history is secure. That he is, in the terms of current fashion, the politically incorrect writer *par excellence* will not eventually count for much. His writing does us the inestimable service of all truly worthy literature: it breaches our puny, comfortable assumptions about the world, forcing us to see differently and confounding what we want reality to be. Jünger perceives chaos and order in equipoise, but neither of his sightings reassures us: order offers us no personal redemption; and chaos is the unsettling constant in life itself. It is the void we fill with war no less than with peace.

Having served as a highly decorated storm troop officer in the First World War, at the onset of the Second World War, aged 44, he found himself in uniform again.

War meant an end to writing at leisure, but he could go on with his diary. "There will be no lack of spectacle," he noted.

Jünger's Paris notebooks date from the spring of 1941. He served on the staff of the military governor of the city, General Karl Heinrich Stulpnagel, and lived at the Hotel Raphael on the Avenue des Portugais.

'He has the look of something blooming, indeed childlike'

On May 29, 1941, only a few weeks after his appointment to the staff, Jünger noted: "Added to the flood of unpleasant things weighing on me, it happens I have been ordered to oversee the execution of a soldier condemned to death for desertion. At first I intended to report sick but that seemed a cheap way out. I also thought: perhaps it's better that you are there rather than someone else." A "higher curiosity" seized him. In the previous war he had not observed a deserter shot, nor anyone prepared for the precise moment of death. Here was a situation "daily threatening each of us, shadowing our lives".

The condemned man had deserted the army shortly after the surrender, and hid out with a French mistress in Paris. When he abused her, she turned him in.

Jünger arrives at the execution site (probably la Vallée-aux-Loups) towards dawn. On catching sight of the prisoner, he is overcome with a feeling of oppression, as though breathing itself has become difficult. The man's face has features attractive to women. While his death sentence is read, he seems to attend with keen awareness, "yet I have the impression the text is passing him by. His eyes are wide open, motionless, absorbing, large, as though the body were hanging on to them. His whole mouth moves as though he were spelling. His glance falls on me and tarries a second over my face with a penetrating, searching tension. I note that the excitement confers upon him the look of something intricate, blooming, indeed childlike."

The minute's reading seems interminable. The blindfolded man kisses a small silver cross, and a doctor places a piece of red cardboard over the heart.

"I would like to glance past but force myself to look straight on and seize the moment when, with the salvo fire, dark little holes appear in the cardboard as though dewdrops had fallen on it. The man shot is still standing by the tree; his features express a dreadful surprise. I see his mouth opening and closing as though it wanted to shape vowels and still, with great effort, to express something. The situation is perplexing, and again the time stretches out. It even seems the man has become dangerous. Finally his knees give in."

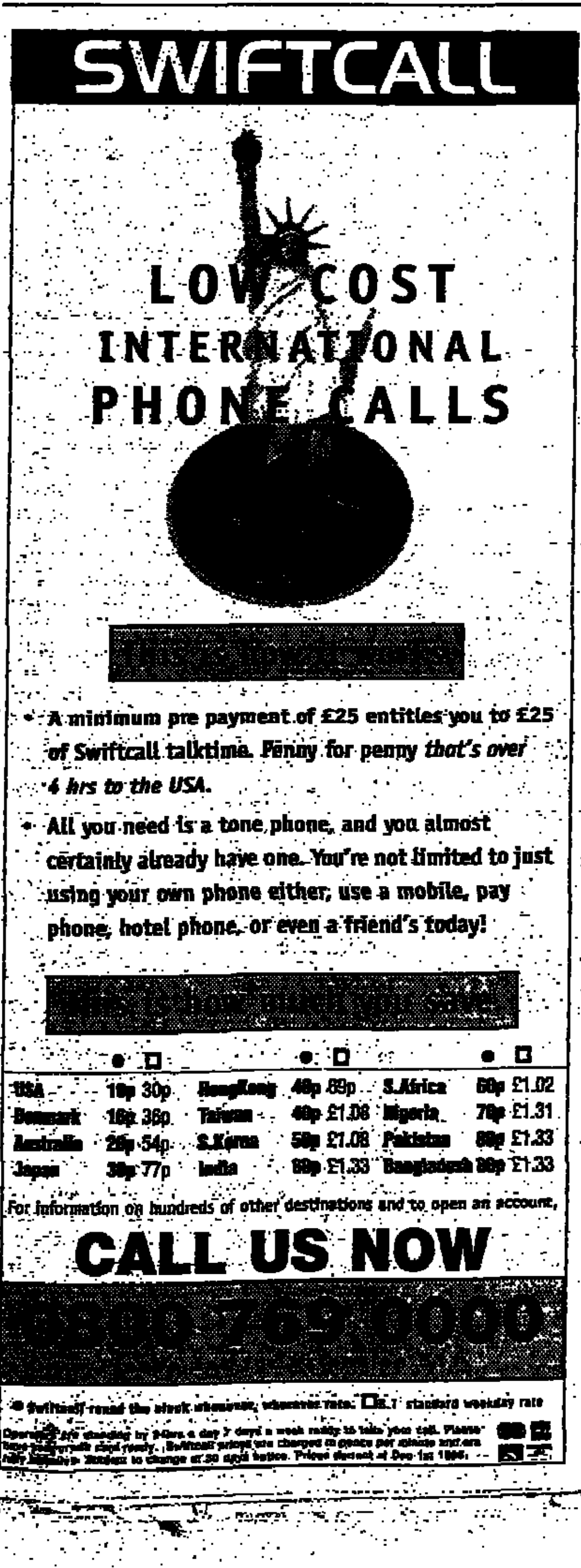
The physician explains that the dying man's gestures were only reflexes. Jünger is not persuaded. "He hasn't seen what became evident to me in a ghastly way."

Taken superficially, this passage ratifies a central objection to Jünger, that he achieves aesthetic concentration at the cost of moral sensitivity, as though he had followed to the letter John Ruskin's advice for "the great painter": "Always cool yourself as you either look on, or take any necessary part in the play. Cool, and strong-willed — moveless in observant soul. Does a man die at your feet — your business is not to help him, but to note the colour of his lips..."

The rationale, that he might observe the very moment of death's stroke, seems a morbid rather than a "higher" curiosity. It is his narrative that is "higher": higher than any film record could be, because he is humanly susceptible, yet it escapes the merely clinical estimate which the physician provides at the close. This narrative hardly fits the charge that Jünger's aestheticism is morally insensitive.

To say that he shows no compassion does not prove he does not feel it, or is incapable of it. More important, his narrative gives the reader grounds for pity and terror.

● *Extracted from* Ernst Jünger and Germany *by Thomas Nevin (Constable £20)*



SWIFTCALL

LOW COST INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS

- A minimum pre payment of £25 entitles you to £25 of Swiftcall talktime. Penny for penny *that's over 4 hrs to the USA.*
- All you need is a tone phone, and you almost certainly already have one. You're not limited to just using your own phone either; use a mobile, pay phone, hotel phone, or even a friend's today!

	●	□		●	□		●	□
USA	10p	30p	HongKong	40p	89p	S.Africa	60p	£1.02
Denmark	18p	36p	Taiwan	40p	£1.08	Nigeria	70p	£1.31
Australia	26p	54p	S.Korea	50p	£1.08	Pakistan	80p	£1.33
Japan	30p	77p	India	80p	£1.33	Bangladesh	80p	£1.33

For information on hundreds of other destinations and to open an account,

CALL US NOW

0800 769 0000

BUY NOW Offer Ends 11th Jan

Interest Free Credit

See payment option 2 below

Buy Now-Pay July '97*

£1098.63 inc VAT £935 +VAT

Included Software

The Ultimate Multimedia deal!

P120 Home Office 1

Please Quote Product Code 300-30-251

Quick Specification Check

☑ Intel Pentium P120
☑ 16Mb RAM
☑ 1080Mb Hard Disk
☑ Full Multimedia
☑ Fast 64-bit Graphics
☑ Massive Software Bundle
☑ FREE Modem (Limited Offer)
☑ FREE Colour Printer (Limited Offer)
☑ Interest Free Credit

CLAIM YOUR FREE COLOUR INKJET PRINTER (first 1000 customers only)

Superb Lexmark Colour Inkjet printer with autosheet feeder Ideal for home and business use. PC printer cable not included.

FREE Fax/Data/Internet Modem (until offers end) A modem is now an essential requirement in every multimedia PC

3 EASY WAYS TO PAY!

1. Pay With Order

2. Six Months Interest Free Credit 0% APR

3. Pay Over 2½ Years 19.8% APR

Other System Options

P150+

P150+

P166+

TIME 01282 777 111

Sales Lines Open: Mon-Fri 9am-7pm Sat 9am-5pm

Volume and Corporate Enquiries, Please Ask For Corporate Sales

Time Computer Systems Ltd, Granville House, Brackburn Rd, Simonstone, Burnley BB12 7TG

Philip Howard

■ We shouldn't wear an eye-patch when looking at our piratical ancestors

Let us have pirates about us that are black. Their hearts should be black, and their hands bloody. So Disneyland's decision to replace the old-fashioned pirates in its theme park with more politically correct buccaneers is dumb. It is also deplorable. When Disney's pirate-ride reopens, instead of chasing women, its pretend pirates will bunch them with flowers and woo them with fruit. The foolish fringe of the feminist lobby is gratified. But as scholars have pointed out, because of the scarcity of females, pirates (like sailors) were mostly homosexual and did not chase women except to rob, kill and possibly eat them. And as the common enemies of mankind, pirates were outlaws operating outside the margins of society. They were negative advertisements for civilisation.

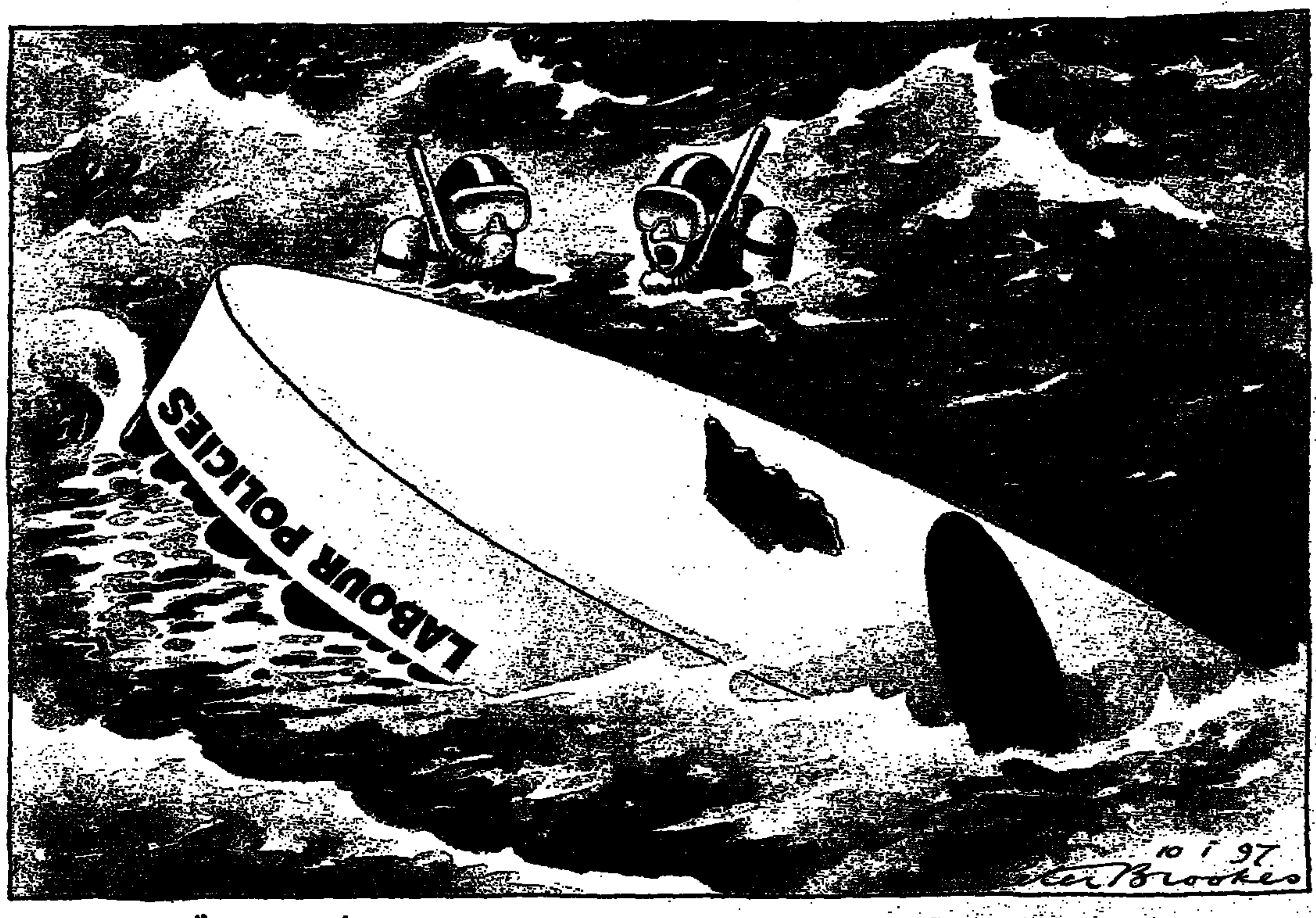
As an old, civilised and maritime society, Britain played its part in putting down the pirates of the Levant and the Barbary Coast. But the British have always been ambivalent about the sea savages. For under our mongrel skin we are a piratical race. After the Romans, the three tidal waves of invaders who made Britain were pirates: Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans (just Vikings come to roost). Drake and the seamen who beat the Armada and ruled the waves for the merchant venturers were pirates, though Elizabethan PR called them privateers.

And once the north-western quarter of the world was freed from pirates, we romanticised the brutes. *Robinson Crusoe* introduced the genre of desert island romance. Byron glamorised corsairs and such dangerous loners. *Treasure Island* made pirates swash their buckles. But blind Pew tap-tapping down the street to deliver the black spot is still terrifying. That book is also politically insensitive to the monopodal and monocular. But then the first novel was equally deformist about Polyphemus, the original man-eating, one-eyed pirate. It is a grief that *Treasure Island* is not available for shrieks and bangs in the London theatre this season.

Hollywood carried on this charming of the pirate through Douglas Fairbanks, Errol Flynn, Victor Mature, and (more sub-textually) Robert Newton, with eye-rolling villainy and his shin strapped up behind his thigh. *Peter Pan* at Ayr this winter has been emasculated by the need to censor Wendy's advice to her Lost Boys to die like "English" gentlemen, and all Captain Hook's references to his Etonian training for piracy. But the production is made more realistic by the revelation that the actor playing Smee (the cuddly pirate) is in love with Peter Pan (a male pop star).

The British are intensely law-abiding and respectable. But our piratical roots show in our long-distance yachtsmen, seeking the freedom of the seas, and their gallant rescuers, when the yachtsmen inevitably sink. The little boats that sailed to Dunkirk represented our privateering heritage. But although we secretly admire the wild freedom of the pirate, we know that he is an enemy of civil society. We may make fun of him to sing "It is, it is a glorious thing / To be a Pirate King"; but the civilised side of our split nature recognises that the dirtiest land thug is a Christian gentleman compared to a real pirate. The pirate is as cruel as a seasnake and as deep as Davy Jones's Locker. Jolly-Rogering and yo-ho-hoing do well enough to give small boys a pleasurable *frisson*, but the modern descendants of the pirate are hijackers and terrorists. Even Disney, which turns everything cute, even Shere Khan drawled by George Sanders, should not turn pirates into gentlemen. The only civilised treatment for pirates is to stamp on their fingers as they try to board and so set them free to "walk home". Pirates never made anyone walk the plank. It would have been too expensive and needed greater organisation than the drunken brutes had. They chucked their victims overboard.

J. Caesar knew how to treat pirates. As a young politician, he was captured by pirates and held for ransom for 40 days while the deal was negotiated. He joked with his *Jocosos Rogeres* that he would come back and crucify them. They laughed a lot. But when he was freed, the first thing Caesar did was raise a fleet and crucify his pirates to a man. For once the taxi-driver is right. That is the only language the sods understand.



"THERE'S THIS FAINT KNOCKING SOUND, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THERE'S ANYTHING THERE..."

New plays are the thing

Why do I go to the theatre so seldom these days? Could it be that too few playwrights are playwrighting?

Bernard Levin

First question. Why is the London theatre dying on its one remaining leg? Answer: you are an idiot, because the London theatre has never in its life before been so healthy, crammed and enjoyed. Oh, yes? (See Lloyd Webber musicals.)

Next question: When did the play called *The Woman in Black* open at the Fortune and how long has it been there?

Next question: Why do I now go to the London theatre roughly once in six months, and why are *Art* and *Talking Heads* the only new plays for several years I shall remember, and would remember even if the three actors in the first play and the two in the second play were not so superb?

Next question: Who is Georgina Brown, who knows so much about the London theatre and makes me shiver when she writes in the *Mail on Sunday*:

> Can the West End sustain another musical? Or, by inventing the first blockbuster musical, did Andrew Lloyd Webber unwittingly create a monster whose offspring have ravaged what was once the proud home of the British play by eating up all the best theatres, the talent, the money and its ever-dwindling audience?

Take those few words about the theatre, "its ever-dwindling audience". That dwindling audience is no mirage, and the fact that Ms Brown goes far and wide to praise the Royal Court and Pinter's most recent (and most dreadful) play is another sign. There are many more signs — I pick one casually from the catalogue, and Duncan Weldon, one of the greatest producers we have had, pops out and says laconically, after he has put on *Plunder*, an old farce, he will have no change from £300,000. But Weldon groans not because of the money that is disappearing from his pockets, but for the plays that never even got into his pockets in the first place.

And that is where I come in.

I have loved the theatre from boyhood, and the theatre has been second only to music itself. I have been a theatre critic five times, and survived. I have seen thousands — not hundreds — of plays, and left on tiptoe from many hundreds, well before the curtain fell. (Disgraceful, you say? You didn't see some of the worst ones.) Ignoring the classics, which are in a separate category, I ask again why do I now go to the theatre some twice a year, not 20 times as it once was and now still should be?

A few suggestions. The tickets are now too expensive — go in the gods. There's nowhere to park — go by bus. The streets in the centre are dangerous — they aren't. You can't get a drink in the interval — shove harder. Any more excuses? There aren't any more excuses.

The terrible answer — and when I say terrible I am not exaggerating — the terrible answer is that there are no new great playwrights and hardly any of any weight, some old ones are no longer writing, and when did we last see a new play from Shaffer? (You tell me that there *is* a Shaffer? Yes, he came up with a miniature after many years.)

Some say that the overbearing weight of the gigantic musicals is driving all other plays out of the business, but that cannot be the problem, even though the monsters — *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Miss Saigon*, *Sunset Boulevard* and all (not to speak of *Jesus Christ Superstar* which started the whole business) — are all crowded nightly.

Ho, all crowded nightly are they? Aha and Ho, there's the trick — the mighty monsters have driven the ordinary playwrights off the stage. Wrong, surely wrong: not only are there plenty of stages to put plays on, but — and to our shame — at any time there are anything up to half a dozen theatres that are dark: the doors are shut and there are no plays to open with. Georgina Brown, who set me off on this hunt, suggests that the very presence of the mighty pillars frightens ordinary playwrights away. *Is* it true that, say, *Cats* (which has been running for 15 years, and will never close) drives out the non-musicals? Surely our playgoers are not so timid? (I have heard that when it was announced that Covent Garden was to close for two years for its greatly needed repairs, the Opera House asked Drury Lane if it would give up *Miss Saigon* for that time. The answer was a very rude sound.)

Another grim clue. When I first heard of *Art*, I was suspicious (I had been on my guard for many years after all), even though the threesome of players — Finney, Courtenay and Stott — make a formidable trio. But such splendid actors would not muck about; nor do they. But by the time I had decided to go, ignoring the suspect name of the play, half the town had been (Wyndham's is not a very large theatre). I strolled up to the *guichet* expecting hollow laughter, but I got a choice of places (and even got politeness). Now if the best new play for years isn't always packed when the word has gone thoroughly round, there is something amiss.

And indeed something is amiss. What is it? Put plainly, the problem is that there is an appalling paucity of playwrights and plays. Well, yes, I agree that two plus two make four, but why aren't there any playwrights playwrighting? And to top all that, I discovered, somewhat late, that *Art* is a French play just Englished for the Brits. Many decades ago, one of my stints as a theatre critic called for me to take on French plays as well as British ones. I took it for nearly a year, and then downed tools: French non-classic plays were so dreadful, so feeble, so obvious, so ghastly, so monumentally stupid, that from that day to this I have never again set foot in a French playhouse. Now do you see why I took time to catch up with *Art*?

But I still don't know why I cannot go to the theatre at least once a week and be rewarded by fine, bold, bright, witty, deep, powerful plays. The idiotic reply is that nobody is writing them, as if they came out of a chewing-gum machine.

So I don't know. But I cannot shrug and say "sorry, nobody is writing plays these days". You must understand that a great play is not just a couple of hours of enjoyment, though it is that too. There is no country in the world more rich in plays than ours; and if that richness dies out, a great part of our lives dies with us. It is no use saying "Well, we've got Shakespeare, what more do you want?" I want very much more, and so does Shakespeare.

Pause for a moment to think about the novel. Up and down it goes, to be sure, but there can be no bookshop which has no novels, and why should the stage be stripped of its life? There are some feeble answers about television — some say that the box has pushed out the living stage because people cannot bother to put on their overcoats and pop down Shaftesbury Avenue or Charing Cross Road. Yes, I do know that not everybody lives in the middle of London, but you would be surprised how many theatres there are in Manchester, to say nothing of Scotland. Nevertheless, the heart of theatre in this country is in the heart of London, and that is only one reason I tremble when I look down the list of West End plays.

I am told that several plays are in the pipeline, and all I have to do is wait. That was what they used to say in the glory days when real *new* plays tumbled out of any waistcoat. But if the new world is about to put its nose through the curtain, the curtain had better not be like anything we have seen recently. My growling is no shadow; look through the theatre page of any paper that takes the theatre seriously: countless Lloyd Webber pieces, a few dozen oldies — say, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *An Inspector Calls*, *An Ideal Husband*, *A Doll's House*, and — so far eight years — *The Woman in Black*. Roll up, roll up, customers, and see *The Woman in Black* for the ninth time.

But I am not sneering; if anything, I am weeping. You may say that an old play is better than no play, and I am on the verge of saying that it isn't. But if fewer and fewer plays turn up (and I mean plays for which it is worth getting out of an armchair), it will be not a nuisance but a great hole in the fabric of our land. We *can* live without the theatre, of course, but I fear that if it withers and dies, nothing will bring it back to life.

This is the last in the present series of columns. Bernard Levin will continue to write elsewhere in The Times.

A sect fit for the starry-eyed

Michael Gove on Helmut Kohl and the Scientologists

Holocaust denial is a perversion of history. Holocaust hyperbole is becoming almost as disreputable. Holocaust hyperbole is the casual exaggeration of a current injustice which ranks it with the genocide of Nazi Germany. The latest and most egregious example is an "Open Letter to Helmut Kohl" from a B-list of Hollywood names, comparing the treatment of Scientologists in Kohl's republic to the persecution of Jews in Hitler's Reich.

The Nazis' systematic deployment of all the tools of state terror, and the complicity of a people in the attempted extermination of an entire race — the culmination of centuries of prejudice and pogrom — was a crime of unequalled barbarity. It is an insult to the suffering of its victims and the dignity of its survivors to use the memory of the Holocaust to manufacture outrage. To equate it with any abuse of power in Germany today is grotesquely inappropriate. And to compare the organised murder of the Jewish race to the difficulties faced by a "Church" of hustlers stretches the limits of tolerance.

One might have thought that even in Hollywood, the home of mangled history, muddled liberalism and gullibility, it would be hard to find 34 holy fools prepared to put their name on a billboard advertising their own insensitivity. Yet actors as distinguished as Dustin Hoffman and producers as powerful as Aaron Spelling have allowed their reputations to be demeaned by endorsing the unequal equation of anti-Semitism and opposition to Scientology.

It would be bad enough if those who wrote to Herr Kohl had made their maladroit intervention out of misguided sentiment, but the ruffle of dollars and the whiff of the agent's cigar can be discerned in the background. As Giles Whittell reports on our foreign pages, the links between Scientology and the signatories are not all ties of the purest principle.

Hollywood has long been home not only to the mixed motive and the hired hand, but also to a residual anti-German feeling. Many of its finest names have known something of the real horrors of Middle-European intolerance. Modern Germany may have its faults, as the shameful treatment of asylum-seekers in the eastern *Länder* shows, but it also has its virtues. One of those is its robust recognition of the ways a determined sect can exploit the tolerance of liberal society.

Our Home Office has recognised Scientology as a "bona fide religion" and opened the way to its application for charitable status. The Germans have seen it for what it is — in the words of a 1995 court ruling, in Cassel, Hesse — a "business organisation". But Scientology is no Sainsbury's — it is a vast exercise in self-promotion and networking which robs the vulnerable of their dignity and more, peddling in return a pseudo-science that would look ludicrous in a *Star Trek* script. If Scientology is a Church, then Elmer Gantry is its patron saint. Its founder, the hack turned quack L. Ron Hubbard, established the sect as lucrative proof that there are, indeed, several born every minute.

Scientologists believe that Ron somehow visited Venus, although how he survived the concentrated suphuric acid rain or the surface temperature of 460 degrees Celsius remains, like so much about the cult, obscure. Hubbard believed that human beings are receptacles for immortal forces called, with all the imagination of a man who started his career in comic books, Thetans. The Thetans, according to a Scientology textbook, were brought to Earth by an evil lord called Xenn. Scientologists do not respond warmly when asked about his relation to the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance.

It is easy, and healthy, to laugh, but ridicule is not enough. Scientology is, if anything, more pernicious than preposterous. Like many cults it offers structure, coherence and companionship for bruised souls. The quasi-induction process of "auditing" mimics some of the soothing effects of psychotherapy and has proved much more addictive. Sessions are expensive and recruits who wish to persevere with auditing until they reach a state in which they are "clear" have to earn their treatment by pavement proselytising. They become pyramid-salesmen for salvation.

Scientology has also made money from other business involvements, not least property speculation in East Germany. Money that is handed over by converts is invested in concrete. The organisation is estimated to have made around £60 million profit in Germany alone last year from "education" material.

The young in ordered societies such as Germany and Japan are particularly susceptible to the call of closed cultures, as the terrifying success of Japan's Aum sect showed. Germany, where the Constitution is a model of rationalist legalism, erected to guarantee civil liberties in the shadow of the Holocaust, is particularly vulnerable. Liberal democracy's weakness is its willingness to extend to its enemies rights which they will not scruple to abuse.

In refusing to take Scientology at its own estimation and recognising the *soi-disant* saviours as hucksters, Germany has done democracy a service. Herr Kohl should also be saluted for yesterday dismissing the Hollywood letter as "rubbish". His common sense suggests that 60 years after Weimar failed to stand up to intimidation, Germany is at last beginning to feel at ease with itself.

DIARY

Whitewash

LAWYERS working on behalf of the cricketers Ian Botham and Allan Lamb are delighted by news of the paternity suit filed in California by Sita White, daughter of the late Lord White of Hull, against Imran Khan. Any smear on Imran's reputation might be useful when they resume their battle next year.

Botham and Lamb felt hard done by in the way they lost their libel action against Imran last year, and their lawyers feel that Imran's team played dirty. Their appeal has just been postponed from this October to April 1998, by which time, should Imran's ambitions go to plan, he will be safely ensconced as Pakistan's Prime Minister. But even if Imran does win office, his political position, like President Clinton's, will probably be sandbagged by unsavoury litigation.

"We made a conscious decision not to bring in a smear campaign against Imran Khan [about Sita White's alleged love-child] in the High Court," says Rhory Robertson, of Swepstone Walsh (Botham and Lamb's solicitor). However, George Carman, QC, brought up all of the old sex and drugs stories about Botham, on behalf of Imran.

"Whether I was right or wrong in giving that advice, in light of the muck that was thrown at us by Imran's legal team, will be debated until I go to the grave," says Robertson. "But we may well bring this White business up in the retrial."

● *Cold weather is no problem for the Prime Minister's exotic collection of fish, kept in a pond at his home in Huntingdon. The two policemen who guard the house receive a full list of instructions whenever the PM goes away, and have grown fond of the assorted Koi carp and goldfish, which are rubbed with suncream in hot weather. The policemen, who occupy a hut on the property, make sure the pond does not freeze solid by pouring saucepans of warm (not boiling) water onto any icy patches.*

Sita White: allegations

More More

ENGLISH HERITAGE and its chairman, Sir Jocelyn Stevens, have swung in behind Christopher Moran, the former underwriter expelled from Lloyd's, and his plans to renovate Crosby Hall in Chelsea, the 15th-century home of Sir Thomas More.

Moran has been trying to overhaul the place at a personal cost of £25 million, against the objections of certain local residents and the council.

The outcome of Moran's appeal against Kensington and Chelsea council's decision will be heard by the Secretary of State for the Environment later this month. "It is a project to which I have dedicated the rest of my life," Moran said. "Some residents say their view of the river will be spoilt, but there is an undercurrent of envy about this." Why on earth anyone should feel envious of a former Lloyd's man spending £25 million on his house beats me.

● *Flying in from New York for the British première of her latest film,* Some Mother's Son, *Helen Mirren found herself delayed for two hours by Virgin. She was held up for an hour in the air and another waiting for her baggage. So much, then, for letting the airline use all that soft-focus filming of her legs in their advertisements.*

Over here

WESTMINSTER is running thicker than a Louisiana bayou with American members of Congress at the moment, the result of some frenetic work by Sir John Kerr, the British Ambassador in Washington. Just before the November congressional elections in America, when candidates are at their most vulnerable to a friendly invitation, Kerr picked the likely winners and suggested they come on over to Britain.

Since November, 24 senators and congressmen have visited, and another 25 are expected in the next month, to discuss subjects from agriculture to Nato and, naturally enough, transatlantic relations. There is, however, a price to pay for proving that the special relationship still exists. "It would be rude," says the Foreign Office, "if, having invited them, we did not pick up the cost of their visits."

● *Monday sees the publication of* Roll the Dice, *the memoirs of Darius Guppy, convicted fraudster and friend of Earl Spencer. The title of the work is a sorry compromise, after the publishers dropped the early working title, which referred directly to the chaotic jewel insurance scam for which Guppy did his porridge,* My Little Gem: Polished but Flawed.

Gone ape

AFTER several torrid months in the press, here is some sunshine news about Hugh Grant. He has written a detailed 1,000-word foreword to *Mission Possible*, a book by Ian Guard, 19, a Cambridge undergraduate, about the plight of the African mountain gorilla. Proceeds go to the International Gorilla Conservation Programme and the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund.

Grant, monkeying around

Grant is a keen monkey man. His girlfriend, Liz Hurley, even calls him "Monkey", because she thinks he looks like one, and their joint film production company is called Simian Films.

"We must not become complacent," writes Grant. "The gorilla represents not just a species but a whole ecosystem which also needs conserving."

P·H·S

هكذا من الأصل

ELEPHANT AMONG TIGERS

The right moment to encourage India's drive for modernisation

As John Major was happy to acknowledge yesterday, the assembly of 10,000 Indian businessmen he addressed in Calcutta was probably the largest of his political career. An even larger audience was also in his sights, the million-strong Indian community in Britain whose industry, enterprise and strong sense of ethical values he praised, and whose votes British politicians are anxious to court. But it would be wrong to see Mr Major's sub-continental journey entirely through the prism of electoral politics. His enthusiasm for British ties with India is real, and is not limited to cricket.

The Prime Minister was quick to see that India's dismantling of the post-independence "licence raj" promised not only industrial freedom and economic opportunity but an easing of the country's prolonged and prickly defensiveness towards its former colonial ruler. The new Indo-British partnership agreement which he signed in 1993 has helped to double two-way trade. British investment in India has increased by 50 per cent in the same period, with the forming of more than 600 new joint ventures. Investment worth another £3 billion lies ahead.

Given that an economy of 950 million people is still only about the size of Belgium's and that the total annual foreign investment it attracts today is only about £2.4 billion, this is business on a significant scale. But Mr Major has been equally active in pressing for India's inclusion, as an increasingly important regional power, in the regular dialogue between the European Union and the "tiger" economies of Asia.

India is partly to blame for this omission; for years it seemed naturally to exclude itself through the closed nature of its economy and its preferred identity as cheerleader for Third World confrontationists and close Asian partner of the Soviet Union. But now that the elephant is limbering up to face the world in which the tigers have long moved, Mr Major is right to press India's case for inclusion and Britain's European partners should be prepared to concede it.

Dialogue is particularly important to India because of its long and unrewarding adherence to a semi-autarkic, highly bureaucratic and state-dominated economy. Indians sometimes joke that the extensive macroeconomic reforms undertaken since 1991 have been pragmatic rather than ideological — because the Indian Government itself does not believe in them. The first steps were certainly forced by crisis. But Deve Gowda was a pioneering crusader for liberalisation in Karnataka before becoming Prime Minister last year; he, at least, seems to believe in what he is doing.

Although the old prejudices against private enterprise are fading and the country is much less crippled by the industrial licence system than it was, the culture of petty regulation survives. Some industrial sectors are adapting fast to a more open economy; but there is an undimmed determination among others, particularly in consumer goods, to keep the thick blanket of protection that has cosseted them against foreign competition. Against strong internal pressures of this kind, India's reformers need to be able to set the examples of success in open-market economies, and the discipline of international rules such as the World Trade Organisation supplies.

In the 50 years since independence, India has made so little of its potential that it is currently home to around 40 per cent of the world's desperately poor. It has an enormous amount to do if it is to realise the vision Mr Major offered yesterday of a country which within the next 50 years will be a nation not of "huddled masses" but of prospering producers and consumers, "a political force for the good" in Asia and a leading player in the Commonwealth and global institutions. Mr Major had the sense to talk in terms of common challenges and to acknowledge Britain's own experience of "the pain and difficulty of economic change". But this was not a message that a British Prime Minister could have risked delivering, however politely, only a few years ago. It is because India is such a different country today that his journey is timely, his time well spent.

TOON AND CITY

Keegan would never have felt comfortable in a public company

Rarely have the loyalties of one city been so bound up with the fortunes of its football club. Manchester and Liverpool play host to rival teams; London has a plethora. But in Newcastle, nearly everyone supports Newcastle United. The recent revival of the club's fortunes has paralleled the revival of the city. No wonder, then, that the response to the resignation of Kevin Keegan as manager of the club has been one of almost universal despair.

But once they have got over the initial shock, supporters of the Magpies may come to realise that Mr Keegan left at the right time. Newcastle United is due to be floated on the stock market very soon, and the club's bankers advised Mr Keegan that he had to make up his mind whether he intended to stay. Having been nearly as liberal with his resignation threats as with the chequebook of his backer, Sir John Hall, Mr Keegan had to undertake to remain for some time after the flotation. This, it seemed, he was not prepared to do.

He may well have been wise to leave on a high. The style of management he adopted at Newcastle owed more to Saudi princes than to Marks & Spencer. He preferred to buy talent, often at enormous expense, than to nurture it himself. Thus, last year, he spent more than £26 million on three players alone. Yet Newcastle has no active reserve team and hardly any youth development.

Manchester United, by contrast, has an enormous youth scheme, which could provide much of its strength in years to come. A talented young footballer in Manchester could realistically hope to play for his home team. His equivalent in Newcastle would be advised to move west. Given that the city of Newcastle has produced such players as Paul Gascoigne, Alan Shearer, Bryan Robson and Peter Beardsley, this disdain for nurturing home-grown talent is bad business.

It is also a strategy that would have gone down badly in the City. Buying players is hugely expensive. Training them is not. While any club will want to put aside some money for transfers, Newcastle has been spending a disproportionate amount.

The business of football does not lend itself easily to the stock market. A study by Deloitte & Touche has shown that, Manchester United apart, the rest of the Premiership teams lost nearly £14 million between them in 1994-95. Newcastle accounted for £8 million of that loss. Manchester United, which made a profit of £20 million, has to be seen as a special case. It is an international brand name, as famous on the streets of Addis Ababa as in Oldham.

Other clubs are likely to make profits only through repeated success at home and in Europe. Even the purchase of excellent players does not guarantee such form. They may be injured, suspended or let down by team-mates. Like a record company, football clubs try to rely on stars. Unlike a record company though, they cannot spread their risks, hoping that the profits from one successful artist will more than offset the losses from another.

So Mr Keegan might have found himself hemmed in by unacceptable constraints — under extreme pressure from fans and shareholders alike to win championships but with far less transfer money at his disposal. The chances are that he would not have lasted long. Newcastle United's strip may be black and white, but this story is not as clear-cut as the club's fans may believe.

HEROES OF THE DEEP

Great British failure — with a stiff upper lip

There is no hero as beloved in Britain as he who fails nobly. An adventurer who looks death in the face and emerges with a self-deprecating quip is the man who captures the nation's heart. Three times within the past three weeks Britons have come close to catastrophe, yet have drawn on reserves of determination and humour to survive.

Sir Ranulph Fiennes struggled on in pain until forced to abandon his trek across Antarctica. Even as the country was marvelling at the courage of the stand-in pilot aboard the *Virgin Global Challenger*, who climbed out at 7,000 ft to jettison a gas canister as the craft was plummeting to earth, came the electrifying news of the rescue of Tony Bullimore, who suvived five days in the hull of his upturned yacht. Bobbing to the surface, he asked rescuers for a cup of tea and sparked the joy of his wife: "The old dog is alive. He's bloody alive!"

Britain has lionised its failures ever since the defeat of King Arthur. Popular idols have been those who set themselves tasks that were beyond them, but when forced to concede, did so with uncomplaining grace. Effortless failure, characterised by stoicism, understatement and a refusal to blame others, is admired almost more than effortless success. Even military defeats have burnt themselves into the nation's admiring memory: from the Charge of the Light Brigade to Rorke's Drift and Dunkirk, the men who seized glory from adversity have been celebrated equally with the victors at Agincourt, Waterloo and the Battle of Britain. Kipling's homily about treating triumph and disaster just the same is burned on the British mind.

Not every disaster warms a Briton's heart. A feeble cricket side that whinges about its incompetence is treated with well-deserved contempt. It lacks three essential elements of the Great British Failure: grit, guts and humour. An amateur ski-jumper, however, who risks life and limb in an Olympic contest clearly beyond him demonstrates a more British kind of sportsmanship, even if Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards had "the aerodynamic grace of a gherkin".

Richard Branson is unlikely to lose his position as Britain's most admired businessman. Everyone can identify with the human fears of Mr Bullimore, grizzled, brash and tough, during his ordeal, and his relief at his rescue; few can emulate his superhuman sang froid. "Thank God," he said, on emerging from the water, a sentiment voiced by John Major in India and by all who had given him up for dead.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Response to Pinter 'bugging' scenario

From the Home Secretary

Sir, I should like to respond to Harold Pinter's request to me (letter, January 5) to confirm or deny a scenario which he thought could happen once the provisions of the Police Bill now before Parliament are in place.

Intrusive surveillance by the police and customs of our most serious criminals has been taking place successfully for many years. The provisions of the Police Bill are intended to put these operations on a proper statutory footing. Their primary purpose is for the *covert* gathering of intelligence against our most difficult and intractable criminals.

If a police officer was disturbed in the process of installing a listening device, then there would be no point in continuing the operation. In such unlikely circumstances, the officer would no doubt leave as quickly as possible and the authorisation for intrusive surveillance of the property would be cancelled. Furthermore, the Bill provides a means for the householder to make a complaint to an independent commissioner, a specific avenue for redress which is not available at present.

Intrusive surveillance often provides the vital intelligence or the crucial piece of the jigsaw in bringing to justice those involved in organised and serious criminal activity.

The Police Bill strikes the right balance between giving our law enforcement agencies the opportunity to use the most up-to-date technology and methods available to combat this very real threat to our society, whilst providing effective safeguards and formal independent oversight to guard against any possible abuse.

Yours sincerely
MICHAEL HOWARD,
The Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
January 8.

From the President of the London Criminal Courts Solicitors' Association and others

Sir, Harold Pinter's plight is, we fear, more serious than he thinks.

When he is arrested he should answer police questions, for he has lost his right to silence (Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994).

Oh, when it comes to his trial he may find that the burden of proof has shifted on to him as a defendant (Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996).

Never mind; by the time he gets to trial the police will probably know what his defence is anyway, as the Police Bill will allow them to bug his solicitor's office and/or his barrister's chambers.

It is amazing to think all of those fundamental rights were lost with hardly a whimper from Her Majesty's Opposition lest they be thought to be soft on crime.

Until the general election we are in a very dangerous state of constitutional limbo where the rights of the citizen are being sacrificed by both parties on the altar of political expediency.

Statesmen have reminded us that the duty of the Opposition is to oppose. It is crucial that issues as important as those contained in the above legislation should be fully debated in Parliament. Since this seems unlikely, it must be the duty of the media to conduct the debate.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ROSCOE,
President,
CHRISTOPHER MURRAY
(Vice-President),
SUE GREEN
(Junior Vice-President),
The London Criminal Courts,
Solicitors' Association,
8 Bow Street, WC2.
January 8.

From Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank

Sir, Harold Pinter should be more explicit. The Labour Party is certainly failing to oppose the provisions for electronic surveillance in the Police Bill; but the other Opposition party, the Liberal Democrats, is leading the fight against them.

The House of Lords will vote on my amendment to Clause 91, which would require judicial authorisation for any police bugging, on January 20. I hope Harold Pinter's friends in the Labour Party will join me in the lobby.

Yours faithfully,
RODGERS of QUARRY BANK,
House of Lords.
January 9.

A stitch in time . . .

From Mr Colin MacGregor

Sir, Imagine my surprise to read in *The Cricketer* magazine:

> England discarded the traditional tour blazer when they flew out to Zimbabwe on November 26, in favour of black suits. David Lloyd explained that the formal dress was donned "to send the message that we are here on serious business".

Might I suggest that a tailor is found to run up twenty blue blazers and grey flannels in double-quick time before further disasters occur.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN I. C. MacGREGOR,
7 Titchwell Road, SW18.
January 7.

Sport letters, page 42

Monarchy on the public agenda

From Professor Stephen Haseler

Sir, By the time I opened the republican case in Carlton TV's debate on monarchy last Tuesday (reports and letters, January 9), I was becoming aware of the bear-garden atmosphere that was about to engulf the programme. Yet, as the show progressed, my initial misgivings — about the soundbites, the heckling, the rowdiness — gave way to a sense of relief.

After all, a real national issue was finally being aired — if not debated — before a mass audience, and the public was being encouraged, no matter how inadequately, to participate rather than sit passively by whilst being instructed by "experts".

Before we condemn Carlton Television, therefore, we need to ask why such shows — and they are "shows" — reach and keep such huge audiences. Is it possible that our timid politicians, who seem frightened to raise any contentious issue at all, no matter how important, have created the vacuum into which mass "infotainment" TV is now moving? Is it possible that the outrageous unofficial gag still operated by the Speaker on parliamentary discussion of monarchy could also have contributed to the emergence of a new kind of forum?

Certainly the Carlton monarchy show exhibited all the vulgarity of mass British popular culture, but too much of the London-based reaction has been prissy. The British have strong views on monarchy and the royals, and attempts to stifle discussion will inevitably lead to "infotainment" supplanting serious and informed debate.

Carlton Television has helped place the monarchy, and its republican alternative, firmly on the agenda. That is a public service if I ever saw one.

Sincerely yours,
STEPHEN HASELER
(Chairman), Republic,
PO Box 2698, London W14 9ZT.
January 9.

From the Chairman of the Market Research Society

Sir, Phone-in polls, such as the one used on the monarchy debate, are no way to gauge the true opinion of the British public. They do little more than tell us which lobby group has been most successful in encouraging people to phone in.

This kind of exercise should be clearly distinguished from professionally conducted survey research which ensures that the views of a representative sample of individuals are obtained.

Yours faithfully,
D. V. L. SMITH,
Chairman,
The Market Research Society,
15 Northburgh Street, EC1.
January 8.

From Mr Jasper Archer

Sir, Carlton made much of the fact that their audience for the great debate had been "hand-picked". One wonders by whom? Perhaps, even more to the point, who picked the hand-pickers?

Yours etc,
JASPER ARCHER,
The Malt House,
Stapleford, Wiltshire.
January 8.

Screen test for 'Hollywood Lovers'

From the Chairman of Yorkshire Tyne Tees Television

Sir, Anyone reading your report of January 4, "TV chief bans *Hollywood Lovers* series", might draw the conclusion that programme planning at Yorkshire Tyne Tees Television is conducted on the basis of capricious and quixotic decisions. That is far from reality.

An experienced senior programme executive is responsible for previewing all programmes which might cause concern, for a whole variety of reasons. If something worries him he brings the matter to the weekly meeting of executive directors who consider the evidence and collectively decide if the programme should be transmitted.

As a result of this process we last year decided not to transmit *Carnal Knowledge*, *God's Gift* and *The Good Sex Guide*. Two months ago we said we did not intend to carry *Hollywood Lovers*.

I believe that independent television, as a service directed at the family audience, should be able to perform without recourse to gratuitous violence, sexual titillation and smut without wit.

If people buy videos, or subscribe to a pay-per-view service or go to the cinema, that is up to them. But ITV comes into the home without viewers having any clear idea of what is going to appear.

That being so, I believe we have to be responsible — even if withdrawing a programme does irritate some people.

Yours faithfully,
WARD THOMAS,
Chairman and Chief Executive,
Yorkshire Tyne Tees Television,
15/16 Bloomsbury Square, WC1.
January 6.

Nurses' training

From the Reverend P. Rowntree Clifford

Sir, Contrary to the views expressed by the President of the Royal College of Nursing and Ms Anna Huxtable (letters, December 31; see also letters, January 7), I believe a rapidly growing number of patients and professional medical people would unhesitatingly endorse the excellent article by Nigella Lawson (December 26) on the widespread decline in the quality of nursing.

An academic degree may confer a certain social status, but it does not qualify those in the caring professions for the skills they need in tending the sick. Indeed, it may deter many of those who are desperately needed in our understaffed health service. Nursing is an art, not a science. Although a core of academically qualified technicians may be required to support the doctors, the urgent need is for more and better supervised caring nurses trained on the wards.

The Project 2000 scheme is likely to prove a disaster by transferring so much training to polytechnics. The inevitable decline might begin to be reversed by restoring the duties of the enrolled nurse and bringing back the crucial functions of matron and ward sister at the expense of a mushrooming administrative bureaucracy.

Yours faithfully,
P. ROWNTREE CLIFFORD,
The Reform Club,
104 Pall Mall, SW1.
January 7.

Combating dementia

From the Director of Research into Ageing

Sir, The new drug which helps to alleviate the early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease for around 50 per cent of sufferers (Medical Briefing, January 7) is welcome.

About 75 per cent of all dementia in older patients was until recently attributed to Alzheimer's, but that figure has been revised down to 50 to 60 per cent.

The various kinds of dementia require different management, however. Those suffering from Lewy body dementia, for instance, which primarily affects a different part of the brain, have periods of lucidity which, if recognised, could be used by family and carers to involve sufferers in decisions regarding future care.

Biochemically, too, the diseases are different, which probably means that different drugs will be required to alleviate the symptoms of the two diseases. This may account for the "failure" rate of the two drugs currently on the US market for Alzheimer's.

More basic research into the mechanisms of the diseases of dementia is required to reduce the numbers suffering from these devastating and costly conditions.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH MILLS,
Director,
Research into Ageing,
Baird House,
15-17 St Cross Street, EC1.
January 7.

Visiting Australia

From Mr J. B. Griffin

Sir, Dr Neal Blewett, the Australian High Commissioner, says (letter, January 6) that holiday visitors to his country need to complete only a simple, two-page, visa application form.

I shall be one of the 300,000 UK tourists (Dr Blewett's figures) visiting Australia this year, and while Down Under I shall visit New Zealand. For the former I need a visa; for the latter I don't.

Holidays in recent years have taken me to the US, Canada, various Caribbean locations, most EU countries, Malta, Cyprus, Tunisia, Morocco and, most recently, on a tour including Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. For none of these did I need a visa.

Why Australia?

Yours faithfully,
J. B. GRIFFIN,
9 Oakwood Drive, Leigh, Lancashire.
January 6.

From Mrs Jean Heald

Sir, Even expatriate Australians find it difficult to visit Australia these days.

I have lived in Britain since 1934 but happened, by accident, to be born in Melbourne. I have been back to Australia on perhaps six or seven occasions, always on a British passport.

On our last visit in the autumn of 1995 we found we had to apply for visas. My (British) husband received his immediately and free. Mine was refused. I had to apply for an Australian passport at short notice. With train fares it cost me £87.

Yours sincerely,
JEAN C. HEALD,
Rebbur House, 108 Nicker Hill,
Keyworth, Nottingham.
January 6.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Finding the best home for ENO

From Sir John Tooley

Sir, The English National Opera management should not be deterred from its proposed move to another site in London by the charge of breaches of faith by David Mellor (report, January 7).

The acquisition of the Coliseum for ENO by the Government in May 1992, with some additional funding from the Sports and Arts Foundation, was an important and generous act, even if it could be perceived as a gesture of political expediency. But to accept that blindly as meaning that ENO must remain there indefinitely is folly and the negation of an opportunity for ENO and the Arts Council to re-examine ENO's place in the operatic life of the country.

London, by the size of its population alone, can surely justify the existence of two opera houses, but not two of similar size, and in the centre of the metropolis. Everything, barring perhaps box-office income, points to the work of the Royal Opera House being complemented by ENO in a smaller theatre (1,500-1,600 seats), strategically placed for audience access and providing the young singer with the conditions for development in a modestly sized auditorium and in a relatively unpressurised situation.

The move of the Sadlers Wells Opera Company to the Coliseum from Rosebery Avenue in 1968 — a move largely determined by expediency and frustration following the rejection of plans to build a new theatre for Sadlers Wells Opera on the South Bank — changed the scene for the young singer adversely. It is true that the growth of regional opera has made up for some of that loss, but not entirely so; and there are also considerations of repertoire to be taken into account.

We should not lose this chance of looking again at what is really required for the future health and wellbeing of opera in this country, for performer and audience alike.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TOOLEY (Director,
Royal Opera House, 1970-88),
2 Leinster Mews, W2.
January 7.

From Mr David S. Lindsay

Sir, In July 1995 you reported that the Royal Opera House wished to build at a relatively modest cost a prefabricated building close to London Bridge for use during refurbishment at Covent Garden.

Two difficulties were mentioned — the time needed to obtain planning permission (which you reported on October 31, 1996, had at last been granted) and the problem of what to do with the new building once vacated.

Today you report that English National Opera has finally decided to leave the Coliseum for a new building but there is no mention of the London Bridge site as an option. Is this not odd?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID S. LINDSAY,
42 Lyndhurst Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent.
January 7.

Peter's Irish friend

From Mrs M. O'Connor McNamara

Sir, Besides learning shipbuilding at Deptford (leading article, December 31), Peter the Great had the opportunity to meet and converse with the learned young Bernard O'Connor, MD, who fortunately recorded the discourses he had with the Tsar of Muscovy and his physicians on the blank pages of his 1697 edition of *Myographia Nova* by John Browne, surgeon to William III.

This volume is now in the possession of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and Dr O'Connor's notes are an insight into Russia in the 17th century based on the conversations he had with the Russian visitors between April 5 and April 19, 1698.

Dr O'Connor, an ancestor of mine, died in October 1698 aged 32. He was born in County Kerry, obtained his MD in Rheims in 1693, was a physician to John Sobiesky III, King of Poland, wrote the first history of Poland in English, and was elected a member of the Royal Society.

Yours sincerely,
MAUREEN O'CONNOR
McNAMARA,
Carrigafoyle, Sheringham Close,
Staplecross, East Sussex.
January 6.

Eye of the beholder

From Mrs Anne McKay

Sir, "Gorgeous", "beautiful", "handsome" — if any of us 55 to 60 years ago had thus announced the arrival of a baby (letter, January 3) our contemporaries would have taken the mickey and the child would later have been teased.

I was surprised to read in the announcement of my latest great-grandchild that she is "scrumptious" (which I admit she really is), but how nice that Matilda has arrived to one of these starry-eyed couples who sound so warm and welcoming — in contrast to an announcement I have never forgotten: "To John and Mary [so-and-so], yet another daughter".

Yours faithfully,
ANNE McKAY,
Lynwood, Heath Rise,
Camberley, Surrey.
January 4.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 9: The Princess Royal, President, this morning visited Save the Children Fund Shops.

Her Royal Highness first visited 2 William Street, Windsor, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr Philip *Wroughton*).

The Princess Royal afterwards visited 9 West Street, Reading, and was received by Mr John Hancock (Deputy Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire). Her Royal Highness subsequently visited 11-13 Market Street, Newbury, and was received by Mr William Palmer (*Deputy Lieutenant of* the Royal County of Berkshire).

ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 9: The Prince of Wales this morning presented the 1995 Wilkinson Sword of Peace Award to *HMS Illustrious* and *HMS Invincible* at Portsmouth Naval Base for their contribution to the Bosnian Peacekeeping Operation.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 9: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Honorary Air Commodore, Royal Air Force Coningsby, today received Group Captain M.A. Gleave on relinquishing his appointment as Station Commander, and Group Captain A.J. Lockwood on assuming *this appointment.*

Dame Diana Reader Harris

A Memorial Service will be held in Sherborne Abbey, Dorset on Friday, January 31, 1997, at 2.30pm, with a reception afterwards at Sherborne School's Dining Hall. It would be helpful if those planning to attend the Service could send a card to: The Secretary, Sherborne School for Girls, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3QN. *Telephone:* 01935 812245. Fax: 01935 814973.

Rohan D'Olier Butler

A Memorial Service for Rohan D'Olier Butler, CMG, MA, DLitt, FRHistS, will be held in the Chapel, *All Souls* College on Saturday, February 8, 1997, at 2.15pm.

Francis A. Singer

A service of celebration for the life of Francis A. Singer, DSc, will be held at St Paul's Church, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge on Friday, January 24, at 11.30am.

The Royal Society of Chemistry

The following were admitted as Fellows of The Royal Society of Chemistry in December 1996. They are entitled to use the designation 'Chartered Chemist' *and the letters CChem FRSC.*

J P Agrawal, P F G Banfill, R F Bartholomew, J T Borlak, I M Bratt, R Clegg, R W Crawford, S Eccles, J R M Hammond, B Harrison, A Hopkinson, C A Lawson, M A Mesubi, C H Osborne, S B Padhye, A D *Ruffle*, N *S Scrutton*, E Wildsmith, W T Wong.

Dinner

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Miss Melissa Cork, entertained at dinner at the Mansion House last evening the Chief Commoner and Members of the Court of Common Council, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, *Mayors and Leaders of* Greater London Boroughs, Aldermen, High Officers of the Corporation of London and Ward Clerks of the City of London.

The Lord Mayor, the Chief Commoner and the Chairman of the Association of London Government were the speakers. Among *others present were:*

The Hon Peter Brooke, CH, MP, Commander Sir Robin Gillett, Sir Anthony Jolliffe, Sir Michael Pickard, Mr C Brearley, Mr E J Brown, *Mr A Cunningham*, Mr A Foster, Mr R Moore, Mr S O'Brien, Miss J Page, Ms C Seamen, Mr A Tallentire, Mr K Taylor, Mr T Travers and Mr G Ward.

Appointment

Combined Cadet Force Association
Major-General Michael Tennant *has assumed the appointment of* Chairman of the Combined Cadet Force Association in succession to Major-General Peter Shapland.

Church in Wales

Diocese of St Asaph
The *Rev* John Glover, Rector of Halkyn, Caerfallwch and Rhesycae, to be Vicar of Rhyl.

University news

Stirling
Dr John Crump, formerly of York University, has been appointed to the WYWY Chair of Japanese Studies from January 1.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Michel Ney, commander of Napoleon's Old Guard, Saarlouis, Germany, 1769; Adrien Wettach (Grock), clown, Reconvilier, Switzerland, 1880; Alexei Nikolayevich Tolstoy, novelist and playwright, 1883; Dame Barbara *Hepworth, sculptor, Wakefield,* 1903.

DEATHS: William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury 1633-45, beheaded, London, 1645; Edward Cave, publisher, London, 1754; Carolus Linnaeus, botanist, Uppsala, *Sweden, 1778; Mary Russell* Mitford, essayist and dramatist, Swallowfield, Berkshire, 1855; Samuel Colt, gunsmith, 1862; William Frederick Cody (Buffalo Bill), showman, Denver, Colorado, 1917; *Frank Bridge, composer, Eastbourne,* 1941; Sinclair Lewis, novelist, Nobel laureate 1930, Rome, 1951; Gabriela Mistral, poet and novelist, Nobel laureate 1945, New York, 1957; Gabrielle (Coco) Chanel, fashion designer, Paris, 1971; *Nubar Gulbenkian,* 1972.

The London Underground (Metropolitan Railway) system started, 1863.

The Standard Oil Company of Ohio was founded by William and John D. Rockefeller, 1870.

The First World War officially ended after the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles by Germany and the Allies, 1920.

The first assembly of the UN was held in London, 1946.

School announcements

Arnold School, Blackpool
The Spring Term began on Monday, January 6, and will end on Wednesday, *March 26. The Entrance* Examinations will take place on Saturday, February 1, and the Scholarship Examination on Thursday, February 6. This *Term's events include: a Burns* Supper on Saturday, January 25; a recital by the Arensky Trio on Sunday, January 26; a Music, Drama and Dance Evening at the *Grand Theatre, Blackpool, on* Friday, February 21; an illustrated talk on Turner by Stanley Warburton, on Thursday, February 27; the Prefects' Dinner on Friday, February 28; the Headmaster's Debate with guest speakers Michael Jack, *MP, PC, and District* Judge Michael Buckley (OA) on Saturday, March 8; the Sportsman's Dinner with guest speaker Fred Trueman, on Tuesday, March 11; the Oxford and Cambridge Conference for Sixth *Formers on Monday, March 24;* the School Concert on Tuesday, *March 25. The Girls' U16 Hockey* team will take part in the National Finals at Milton Keynes and during the Easter Holidays the 'A' level Geologists will travel to the Alps and there will be a ski-ing party to Stowe, USA.

Arnold School, Blackpool is a registered charity which exists for *the education of children. Charity* No 526679.

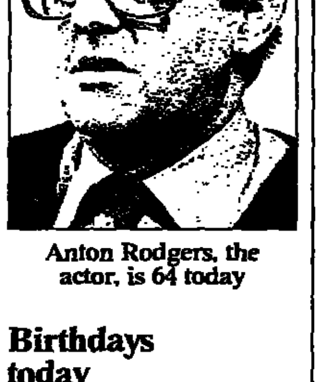
Harrogate Ladies' College
Harrogate Ladies' College *opened* for the Spring Term on Wednesday, *January 8. Entrance tests for* September 1997 take place on Wednesday, January 22. The All England Senior Reserves Lacrosse Tournament will be held at the College on Saturday/Sunday, January 25 and 26; the Scottish Schools' Invitation Tournament is on Saturday, February 22 and the *All England Schools' Tournament* is on Tuesday, March 4, at Milton Keynes. St Michael's Hospice will hold a Cheese & Wine Supper in school on Tuesday, March 11, at *7.30pm. The Choir sings* Evensong at Ripon Cathedral on Wednesday, February 26, at 5.30pm and the Drama Club presents *The Wizard of Oz* at 7.30pm on Sunday, March *23. The History/French Study* Tour departs for Ypres on Monday, March 24. Half term is from noon on Saturday, February 8, to 8.30pm Sunday, February 16, and term ends on Tuesday, March 25, after the Choir's performance of *Handel's Messiah in St Wilfrid's* Church at 2.15pm.

An educational charity registered number 529579 which exists to provide high quality education for girls.

The King's School, Ely
The Lent Term began on Wednesday. The Concert Band will present their traditional New Year Concert with Buffet Supper in the Hayward Theatre on Friday, January 31, *and the Young Performers* of the Year Finalists' Concert will take place on Friday, February 14. The 11+ scholarship examination will be held on Friday, January 31, and that for 13+ academic awards on Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8. Art and Design scholarship examinations will be conducted on *Saturday, February 1; auditions* for Music awards will take place on Friday and Saturday, February 7 and 8; and Sports awards will be made on the basis of practical assessments being held on Saturday, February 8. The AD-HOC Theatre Group will present *Gotcha* on Thursday, February 13, and the Junior School production of *The Boyfriend* will take place in the Hayward *Theatre in matinée* on Tuesday, March 11, and at evening performances on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 12-14. The 1997 Osmond Lecture *will be given by Dr Jonathan* Shanklin on Friday, February 28, under the title 'Environmental Change in Antarctica'. The Lord Bishop will conduct the Confirmation *Service on Saturday,* March 1, at 11.00am in the Cathedral. There will be a *Burns Night* Dinner on Friday, March 14, and the Hoop Trundle will be conducted on Saturday, March 15. Term ends on Friday, March 21.

Queen's College, London
Term began on Tuesday, *January* 7. The Entrance Examination (11+) takes place on Friday, January 17. Half Term is from Monday, February 17, to Friday, February 21, inclusive. Term ends after Founder's Day on Wednesday, March 26. The Founder's Day Service will be held at All Souls, *Langham Place, at 2.15pm. Members* of Old Queen's Society may like to know that this year's Summer Party will be held on Wednesday, June 25, from 6-8pm at the College.

Queenswood School
The Spring Term at Queenswood begins on Sunday, January 12 and ends on Friday, March 21. A *Choral Weekend takes place on* March 15/16 - a weekend of rehearsal and a *concert for* a performance of Mozart's *Requiem.* Friends of the school are welcome. Details of this and other musical events and concerts are available from the Music Department.



Anton Rodgers, the actor, is 64 today

Birthdays today

Sir Walter Bodmer, *FRS*, geneticist, 61; Sir Robin Chichester-Clark, former MP, 69; Mr Tom Clarke, MP, 56; Professor Rodney Eatock Taylor, mechanical engineer, 53; *Dr R.D.H. Gem*, secretary, Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England, 52; Sir Arthur Gold, honorary life president, European Athletic Association, 80; Mr Derek Hammond-Stroud, concert and opera *baritone*, 71; *Sir David* Hopkin, former Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, 75; Sir Derek Hornby, former chairman, British Overseas Trade Board, 67; Mr Clive Jones, chief executive, Carlton Television, 48; Sir Robert *Marshall, civil servant, 77; Dr* Peter Mathias, FBA, former Master, Downing College, Cambridge, 69; Sir David Miers, diplomat, 60; Mr Denis Peach, former Chief *Charity Commissioner, 69; Mr* Rod Stewart, rock singer, 52; Mrs Valerie Strachan, chairman, *HM* Customs and Excise, 57; Sir John Wall, diplomat, 50; Ms Marjorie Wallace, chief executive, SANE, 52.

Did poor central heating set Roman villas on fire?

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE destruction by fire of numerous Roman villas *across England has often been* attributed to civil unrest or barbarian invasion, and thus strengthened interpretations of later Roman times as being *lawless*. The real cause, however, may have been much more peaceful, mundane, and close *to home: faulty central* heating.

While it is well-known that better-class Roman houses had one or more rooms heated by a hypocaust system, in which hot air passed through channels below the floor and *in ceramic pipes up the thick*ness of the walls, the question of where and how the gases were *vented has* been little considered. Mr Michael Astill, writing in the new Roman archaeology journal *ARA*, suggests that this may have been where problems lay.

"If the vertical ducts were transferred to a horizontal *plane at the eaves, this would* dramatically reduce the drawing effect of the up-draught," he says. "All chimneys have as near a vertical draw as possible; the higher the outlet the better. The ridge is best, and some pottery objects could *have been chimney pots at the* highest and most efficient point to extract the gases."

Below the *ridge* line, back draught can occur, and gaps at the eaves would pull in air to ventilate the roof void, while also allowing birds to come in and nest, Mr Astill says. If the *pottery pipes carrying* the gases were not heavily rendered in the roof, cracks might well develop as the walls settled over the years, and if hot gases *could* escape, a potentially serious fire hazard would exist. Old birds' nests *would provide a ready supply* of flammable material.

A Nottinghamshire Fire Service expert agreed, pointing out that eventually the gases could cause friction within this tinder and make it ignite, while a sudden increase *in heat from the furnace could* do the same. Such pyrophoric effects are similar to those in *heathland fires in a dry* summer.

Given the timber construction of the villa roof, by the time the fire was detected it *would be too late to extinguish* with the available technology of hand-filled buckets, Mr *Astill says. In granaries, incor*rect storage can lead to spontaneous combustion, with *similar* effects on the timber construction. "Consequently, fire damage to Roman buildings may owe more to inadequate domestic maintenance *than to the vagaries of brig*andage," he concludes.

Source: *ARA* No. 2:11-12 (Editor: David Gollins, 65 Jacklyns Lane, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 9LF: fax 01962-736206)

Forthcoming marriages

**Mr J.A.F. Noel-Baker
and Miss L.M.A. Seydlitz**
The engagement is announced between Allan, younger son of the Hon Francis and Mrs Noel-Baker, of Euboea, Greece, and *Louise*, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Slawomir Seydlitz, of Harefield, Middlesex.

**Mr J. Spring Rice
and Miss N.L. Robinson**
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of the Hon *Michael* and *Mrs Spring Rice*, of Nettleton, Wiltshire, and Natalie-Lara, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Rivett Robinson, of Bray-on-Thames, Berkshire.

**Mr N.R. Bartlett
and Miss P.M. Boswell**
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Commander and Mrs John Bartlett, *of Embleton, Cumbria*, and Philippa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Boswell, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

**Mr S.R. Blackburn
and *Miss M.J. Morgan***
The engagement is announced between *Simon*, only son of Mr Joseph Blackburn, of Redditch, and Mrs Iris Blackburn, of Windsor, and Miranda, only daughter of Mr David Morgan, of London, and Mrs Clare Findlay, of Fochabers, Scotland.

***Mr D.M.D. Morgan*
and Miss S.K. Read**
The engagement is announced between Dominic, only son of Mr David Morgan, of London, and Mrs Clare Findlay, of Fochabers, Scotland, and Susannah, younger *daughter of Mr* and *Mrs Philip* Read, of Bath.

**Mr A.N.D. Brown
and Miss S.L. Woodhouse**
The engagement is announced between Alexander Nicholas Dashwood, only son of the late Mr *H.D. Brown and of Mrs H.E.* Brown, of Battle, East Sussex, and Sarah Louise, younger daughter of Mr I.W. Woodhouse, of Tokyo, and Mrs N.J. Boisseau, of Dunsfold, Surrey.

**Mr M.D.R. Hewitt
*and Miss A.F. Stone***
The engagement is announced between Mike, son of Mrs Susan Hewitt, MBE, and the late Danny Hewitt, of Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, and Alison, daughter of Mr Ted Stone and the late Jeane Stone, of Winterslow, Wiltshire.

***Mr J.F. Bourke*
and Miss H.S.E. Davies**
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, only son of Mr and Mrs Ben Bourke, of Dulwich, *London, and Sarah*, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Davies, of Bungay, Suffolk.

***Mr M. Delane*
and Miss K. Allen**
The engagement is announced between Marc, son of Mr and Mrs Dennis Delane, of Radlett, *Hertfordshire*, and Katherine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Allen, of *St John's Wood*, London.

**Captain R.C.S. Hall
and *Miss E.A. Paravicini***
The engagement is announced between Captain Bobby Hall, The Life Guards, son of Brigadier Robert Hall, of Manningford *Abbots, Wiltshire* and the late Mrs Robert Hall, and Elizabeth Ann, daughter of Major Nicolas Paravicini, of Brecon, Powys, and Mrs Mary Ann Paravicini, of Warfield, Berkshire.

**Mr W.J.E. Kerr
*and Miss W.M. Moat***
The engagement is announced between Everitt, son of *Mr and* Mrs William Kerr, of Farnsfield, Nottingham, and Wendy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Douglas Moat, of Burwash, East Sussex.

***Mr S.M. Lindoe*
and Miss K.A. Butterfield**
The engagement is announced between Stephen, eldest son of the late Michael Lindoe and of Mrs Dorothy Thompson, now of Anglesey, North Wales, and Kerry, third daughter of Mr and Mrs John Butterfield, of Anglesey, North *Wales.*

**Mr C.H. Newman
and Ms S.J. Luder**
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mrs *Sheila* Newman and the late Mr Gerald Newman, of Oxted, *Surrey, and Sara, third daughter* of Mr Owen Luder, CBE, of Westminster, London, and of Mrs Doris Luder, of Dulwich, London.

**Mr J.F. van Oordt
*and Miss N.F. Jones***
The engagement is announced between Frederik, younger son of Mr and Mrs G.H.L. van Oordt, of Quito, Ecuador, and Natalie, daughter of Mr Edward Jones, of Chiswick, London, and Mrs Patricia Mowbray, of St Margarets, Surrey.

**Mr N.W. Rowe
and Miss V.L. Shaw**
The engagement is announced between Neil, son of Mr and Mrs Terry Rowe, *of* Bedworth, Warwickshire, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian *Shaw*, of The Park, Nottingham.

**Mr D.J. Supple
and Miss V.J. Ingledew**
The engagement is announced between Dermot, elder son of Mr and Mrs *Maurice* Supple, of Alwoodley, Yorkshire, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs *Barry* Ingledew, of Cobham, Surrey.

**Mr S.M. Wallace
and Miss V.L. Stickland**
The engagement is announced between Sean, only *son of the late* Mr Michael Wallace and of Mrs Wallace, of Dar es Salaam and Johannesburg, and Victoria, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael *Stickland*, of The Old Parsonage, Rolvenden, Kent.

**Mr N.L.S. Wilson
and Miss J.R. Farrington**
The engagement is announced between Neil, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Wilson, of *London, and Jane, only daughter* of Mr Anthony Farrington and Mrs Gordon *Hatfield, of London.*

**Mr M.J. Wolton
and Miss K.A. Stanisich**
The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of *Mr and Mrs John Wolton, of Little* Saxham, Suffolk, and Karen, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Darryl Stanisich, of Melbourne, Australia.

**Mr A.H. Woolich
and Miss S.J. Goldstein**
The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Dr and Mrs John Woolich, and Sara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Sidney Goldstein, both of London.

Marriage

**Mr J.C. Hawes
and Miss L.H. Graham**
The marriage took place quietly in Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka, on January 4, between *Mr Jeremy* Charles Hawes, son of Mr and *Mrs John Hawes, of New Yatt,* Oxon, and Miss Lucy Helen Graham, daughter of Mr Ivar Malise Graham, of Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, and of Mrs Isabel Mary Graham, of Norton sub Hamdon, Somerset.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Ian Hilton, Assistant Curate, Aspley, Nottingham *(Southwell): to be Priest-in-charge,* Colchester New Town and The Hythe *St Stephen, St Mary* Magdalene and St Leonard (Chelmsford).

The Rev Mark Howarth, Vicar, Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Reach: to be *also Rural* Dean of Fordham (Ely).

*The Rev Brian Matthews, Chap*lain, St Michael's, Beaulieu-sur-Mer, France: to be Canon Emeritus of the Pro-Cathedral of St Paul, Valletta, Malta (Europe).

The Rev Andrew Mitcham, Shrine Priest, Walsingham: to be Vicar, West Worthing *St John the Divine* (Chichester).

The Rev Simon Morgan, Curate, Peacehaven and Telscombe w Piddinghoe and Southease: to be Priest- in-charge, East Dean w Friston and Jevington (Chichester).

The Rev Peter Owen-Jones, Curate, Leverington w Wisbech St *Mary: to be Rector, Haslingfield w* Harlton and Great and Little Eversden (Ely).

The Rev Dr Richard Reeve, retired: to be Resident Minister, Bicton, Montford w Shrawardine and Fitz (Lichfield).

The Rev Keith Smith, Curate (NSM), Maybridge: to be Assistant Curate, Durrington (Chichester).

The Rev Joanna Stoker, Priest-in-charge, Seer Green and Jordans: to be Team Vicar, the Stantonbury *and Willen Team Ministry* (Ecumenical parish) w responsibility for St James, New Bradwell (Oxford).

The Rev Michael Wright, Priest-in-charge, St Edmund, Anchorage Lane, Doncaster, and part-time Chaplain of Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Montague Hospital *NHS Trust: to be full-time* Chaplain to Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Montague Hospital NHS Trust (Sheffield).

Resignations and retirements
Canon Ian Campbell, Rector, *Brixham Team Ministry (Exeter):* to retire January 31, 1997.

The Rev David Harrison, Assistant Minister, Gorleston St Andrew (Norwich): retired November 11.

The Rev Michael Homewood, Rector, *South Molton Team* Ministry (Exeter): to retire July 31, 1997.

The Right *Rev James* Johnson, Vicar, Hockley and Assistant Bishop in the diocese of Chelmsford: to retire as from May 31, 1997, and then be appointed an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the diocese.

Preb Ray Howard Jones, Communications Adviser, Bishop's Staff Officer and Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral (Hereford): to retire January 15, 1997.

*Canon Brian Jones, Vicar, Cam*bridge St John and Rural Dean of Cambridge (Ely): *to retire January* 31, 1997.

The Rev Eric Manley-Harris, Hon Curate, Torquay St John and Christchurch Ellacombe (Exeter): to retire December 31.

The Rev Edward Parker, Rector, *Mistley w Manningtree St Mary* and St Michael w Bradfield St Lawrence (Chelmsford): to retire April 30, 1997.

The Rev Anthony Pinches, Vicar, Shiphay, Collaton (Exeter): to retire September 30, 1997.

Canon Roland Taylor, Vicar, Badsworth St Mary and North Elmsall St Margaret (Wakefield): to retire January 31, 1997, and to be Canon Emeritus, Wakefield Cathedral.

Canon Bill Todd, Vicar, St Christopher, *Norris Green (Liverpool):* to retire March 30, 1997

The Rev Brian Tonge, Curate, *St* Andrew w St Margaret, Burnley (Blackburn): to retire May 16, 1997.

The Rev John Wickens, Honorary Curate, All Saints, Benhilton (Southwark): *has retired.*

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

God will show your radiance to every land under heaven: from him you will receive for ever the name Righteous Peace, the Splendour of Godliness. ***Baruch 5 : 3,4***

BIRTHS

BURCHHARDT - On January 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Helen and Charles, a beautiful son, Joshua Rex William.

BUSH - On 6th January, to Gary and Susan (*née Pellatt*), a daughter, Kathryn Isabel, a sister for James.

FISHLEIGH - On 4th January, to Gillian (née Ryder) and Robert, a beautiful daughter, Eleanor Alexandra.

FOSTER - On 19th December 1996, to Asha and Oliver, a *daughter, Laura Madeleine* Poppy, a sister for Freddie.

GRAHAM - On December 29th, to Catriona (née Merrylees) and Alastair, a daughter, Rosey (Rosemary Beatrice Janet), a sister for Hamish.

HACKING - On December 26th 1996, to Emily (née Kinsey) *and Stephen, a son, Guy* Albert Melville, a brother for Cecily.

LOWE - To Julie and Anthony, a little angel daughter, Lucinda Jane Carter, on 23rd December at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

LUNDBERG - On 9th January 1997, to David and Isabella, a son, Samuel, a brother for *Jessica and Hannah Mai.*

MATHEWSON - On 7th *January, to Susan (née* Kilpatrick) and Alastair, a *son, James William Douglas.*

McMILLAN - On 8th January *1997 a beautiful daughter,* Iona Jane to Natasha and Vincent, and sister to Laura.

PALARM - On 8th January, to Carolyn and Tim, a wonderful daughter, Rachel Louise, sister to Anna and Jessica.

ROWLAND - On December 14th, to Karen (née Fairholme) and Philip, a daughter, Rowena Katie Fairholme, a sister for Iona.

WALTON - On January 3rd 1997, in Khon Kaen, Thailand, to Hilary (*née* Jennings) and Timothy, a daughter, Lucy Petra Rosemary.

WEST - On 4th January in Singapore, to Colin and Lucy, a daughter, Olivia Lucy, *a sister for Eleanor,* Charlotte and Laura.

WHYTE - On *1st January 1997* at University College *Hospital*, London, to Monica (née Kapoor) and Peter, a son, a brother for Isabelle. Deo Gratias.

DEATHS

ALLEN - Michael Gordon, dearly loved husband of Allison of Bell Lane, *Minchinhampton, son of the* late Sidney and Bessie (formerly of Moor Court, Amberley) in Stroud Hospital on January 6th. *Funeral Service at Holy* Trinity Church, Minchinhampton at 2.15 pm on Thursday 16th January. Family flowers only, donations in lieu for Horsfall House or Stuart House may be sent to Fred Stevens, Funeral Director, Newmarket Road, Nailsworth, Glos. GL6 0DQ.

BALLARD - On 6th January peacefully after a short illness (Mildred) Ann, beloved wife of Kenneth, *adored mother and* grandmother. Funeral at St Giles' Church, Horsted Keynes, at 2.30 pm Friday 17th January. Family flowers only, donations *if* desired to Chailey Heritage Appeal c/o Masters & Son, Lindfield, Sussex RH16 2LB.

BARBER - Iris Stuart (née Baker) on 5th January quietly at Kingswood Court, *Kingswood, in her 98th year.* Devoted mother and grandmother to Michael, Jeannette, Sally and Juliet. Funeral Thursday 16th January 4 pm at Randalls Park Crematorium, *Leatherhead. Family flowers* only. Donations if wished to Help the *Aged* c/o Longhurst, 8-10 Pound Lane, Epsom.

BARKER-BENFIELD - On *December 30th Major* George V. Barker-Benfield M.C., *Royal* Artillery Retd. Husband of Gig and father of Charles. The *funeral* has taken place in Budleigh Salterton.

BARTY-KING - *Hazel Penelope* (née Grist) of Shillinglee Park on 6th January 1997. Funeral Chichester Crematorium, 10 am 16th January.

BROOK - On January 6th 1997, Elizabeth (Betty) Brook, dearly loved sister, mother, grandmother. Funeral Service at Castleton Church, Sherborne at 12.30 pm on *January 17th. Family flowers* only, but donations if desired to National Childrens Home c/o Norman Brister F/D, 100 Lenthay Road, Sherborne.

BROWN - Frank Leonard aged 79 of Hainault, Essex suddenly on January 5th. *Beloved husband of Bessie,* father of Jocelyn and grandfather of Imogen and Kirsten. Funeral at City of London Crematorium, *Wanstead on January 16th* at 2 pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Renal Diseases Research Unit, c/o Dr. Michael Raftery, Renal Unit, Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel, London E1 1BB.

BUTLER - On January 8th in his *90th year, Air Vice Marshal* Eric Scott, peacefully in hospital, much loved father and grandfather. Cremation Eastbourne Crematorium *2.30 pm Tuesday 21st* January. No flowers, but donations to R.A.F. Benevolent Fund, 67 Portland Place, London W1N 4AR.

CASPARIS - Leonora Alice on 7th January 1997, suddenly in the care of Church Farm Nursing Home, East Wittering, after many years *of failing health.*

CHASTNEY - Ethel Elizabeth *Alice (née Vooght), loving* and much loved wife of the late *Harry Francis.* Dearest mother of Brian (dec'd) and Jean and mother-in-law of Victor. Peacefully at home on 7th January in her 97th year. Donations in her memory, if desired, to The British Heart Foundation *c/o* H.C. Grimstead Ltd., Funeral Directors, 164 Field End Road, *Eastcote*, Pinner HA5 1RH.

COVERLEY - Leonard James. On January 2nd, aged 82. For 50 years a much loved and respected Schoolmaster at Chelmsford Hall Preparatory School, Eastbourne. *Graveside prayers* 'on committal' at Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, 12 noon, Friday 17th January. A gathering afterwards at Chelmsford Lodge, 12 Granville Road, Eastbourne.

CURTIS - Owen John, aged 70 years, on 21st December 1996, peacefully in hospital. Dearly loved husband *of* Jean and *loving father of* Andrew, Gregory and Julia. *Requiem Mass* was celebrated at St Vincent De Paul Church, Hull, on 31st December. Donations in memoriam may be made to The *British Diabetic* Association. Enquiries to E.W. Brown & Son, Funeral Directors, 433 Beverley Road, Hull. Tel: 01482 342214.

DEANE - Dr. Antony suddenly on Monday 6th January, dearly beloved by all his *family. Private* cremation at Oxford. Family flowers only. Memorial Service in London, details to be announced later. Donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation c/o Tomalin & Son, Anderson House, 38 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 1AG, tel: (01491) 573370.

DESCH - Gwendolen Lucy, 2nd *January 1997*, suddenly and peacefully, aged 90 years. Devoted mother of great courage, especially latterly, she has now joined her late only son, Stephen Desch (died 31.8.96). Deeply missed by Julia (daughter-in-law), Harriet and Abigail (granddaughters). Cremation Service, Worth, Surrey, Wednesday 15th January at 3.30 pm. Family *flowers* only, donations if desired to the Stephen Desch Memorial Fund c/o C. Waterhouse & Sons, High Street, Burwash, E. Sx. Tel: *(01435) 882219.*

DISNEY - Muriel (née Picton) aged 90. Died peacefully at home on 3rd January 1997. Beloved wife of Dr. M.E. Disney and mother of Michael, Dain and Robin. Funeral Service 11.30 am Monday 13th January at Holy Trinity Church, Exmouth. Flowers or *donations to 'Guide Dogs for* the Blind'. All enquiries c/o Richard W. Gegg Funeral Directors, 47 Rolle Street, Exmouth, Devon EX8 3RF. Tel: (01395) *222444.*

DUNKLEY - Peacefully on January 8th Leslie W.L. Dunkley. District Judge. *Husband of Celia and father* of Tom. Service of Thanksgiving St Peter Mancroft, Norwich Tuesday January 14th at 2.30 pm followed by private interment. Family flowers only but donations in memory to Cerebral Tumour *Research Fund* (St Thomas' Hospital Westminster) c/o Peter Taylor Funeral Services, Norwich NR2 2PE.

FERGUSON - Irene Geraldine Wigham on 8th January 1997 aged 78 slipped peacefully away after a long illness, much loved mother *of Clive and Lee* and grandmother of George and Robbie. Funeral Thursday 16th January 2.45 pm Ashbrittle, Somerset, followed by private cremation. Flowers or if preferred *donations to the* benefit of the R.N.L.I. c/o H. Hill & Sons, Courtland Road, Wellington, Somerset.

FEARNSIDE - Joan Winifred died peacefully on Sunday 5th January 1997 at Shurlock Row. Funeral Service to be held in All Saints Church, Shurlock Row, on Wednesday 15th January at 12.30 pm. Flowers should kindly be sent to Tomalin & Son or if *preferred donations to* Cancer Research Campaign c/o Tomalin & Son, Anderson House, 38 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 1AG, tel: (01491) 573370.

FLOWER - On 6th January, peacefully in hospital, Dr. Desmond John Newman Flower MC, aged 89. *Crematorium Service at* Islington Crematorium, London N2 at 3.30 pm Wednesday January 15th. Flowers if wished, enquire to *F. Upson & Son: 0181-808* 1475. Donations to the British Library Adopt A Book Appeal, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB.

FRASER - At Winchester on 8th January Sir James Fraser, loving and greatly loved husband of Maureen, father of Iain and Christopher, *deeply caring grandfather.* Funeral private. No letters, no flowers please.

HARRIS - Joan *on January 4th* peacefully after a long illness at Galsworthy House, Kingston, aged 80. Beloved sister of Anne and Hugh. Funeral at St Richard's Church, Ashburnham Road, Ham, *Richmond-on-Thames*, on Monday January 20th at 1pm. *No flowers* but donations if wished to Arthritis Care, 18 Stephenson Way, NW1 2HD.

HICKLEY - Olga (née Coleman) on January 7th 1997 at Aldeburgh Hospital in her 90th year. Widow of Tom *North Hickley*, formerly of Little Easton, Dunmow. Olga's radiance is dimmed, but not extinguished, for her friend, Vera. Funeral Service at Aldeburgh Parish Church, Suffolk on Friday January *17th at 11* am. Enquiries to Tony Browns Funeral Service, Saxmundham, Suffolk.

HARTNOLL - Phyllis May, Theatre Historian, on 8th January 1997 peacefully at Pinhay Residential Home, Lyme Regis, aged 90 years, will be *greatly missed* by all who knew her. Funeral Service at St Michael's Church, Lyme Regis on Thursday, 16th January at *1.30 pm followed* by private cremation. Enquiries to A.J. Wakely & Sons, 7A Silver Street, Lyme Regis, Dorset, tel: (01308) 443835.

JOHNSON - On January 8th 1997 *peacefully in hospital* Philip William aged 80 years. Beloved husband of Margaret, dear father and grandfather. Private cremation. *Memorial Service* and interment will take place at Combe Parish Church, Oxfordshire, on Thursday January 16th at 3pm. *Family flowers* only. Donations may be given for Witney Community Hospital League of Friends c/o E. Taylor & Son, 21 Corbett Road, Carterton, Oxon. OX18 3LG.

KEAST - John William aged 90 suddenly at home on Tuesday January 7th, *beloved husband of Claire,* dear father of Brian, Kevin and Sean and much loved grandfather of their children. Cremation at Leatherhead Crematorium, Randalls Park, Randalls *Road, Leatherhead*, on Friday January 17th at 5 pm. No flowers please but donations if desired to British Red Cross *c/o* Alfred and Ewart Longhurst, 21/23 Kingston Road, Ewell, *Surrey.* tel: (0181) 393-1077.

MAKINS - Peacefully on January 8th at The Grail, Waxwell Farm House, Pinner, *Elizabeth* Mary Savile (Veronica) in her 93rd year. Director of the wartime W.A.C.S. Club, Sloane Street, London and a member of The Grail since 1934. Funeral Service in The Grail Chapel, on *Thursday January 16th* at noon followed by interment at St Nicholas' Church, Rotherfield Greys, Henley-on-Thames. Enquiries to The Grail 0181 866 0505 and flowers to Bradley & Jones, 7 *Love Lane, Pinner, Middx,* HA5 3EE.

KELLY - *Suddenly* but peacefully on 28th December 1996 at her parent's home in Ireland. Anne Abigail (Gail) née *Hutchison, Colonel (Retd)* late WRAC, aged 53. Beloved wife, daughter and sister. The private cremation has taken place. Donations in *her memory, if* desired, to the WRAC Benevolent Fund, AGC Centre, Worthy Down, Winchester. Please no letters or telephone calls for the time being.

MANDRY - Died peacefully at home on 2nd *January 1997* Maurice Arthur Mandry aged 86 years of Grovers Farm, Woodham, beloved husband of Mildred and devoted *father of Jeanne* and Robert. Funeral Wednesday 15th January, Service in Christchurch, Ottershaw, 2.30 pm, followed by burial in churchyard. *All flowers* please to Walter G. Worth, 204 Station *Road,* Addlestone by 12 *noon.*

MARSTON - Basil *Sylvester of* Newenden, suddenly on 5th January 1997 at The Conquest Hospital after a short illness, and many years of disability courageously borne. Much loved by his *family* and friends. Funeral Service at 2.15 pm on Wednesday 22nd January at St Nicholas Church, Sandhurst, Kent. No flowers, donations if desired to Severn Springs Cheshire Home, Tunbridge *Wells c/o* C. Waterhouse & Sons, High Street, Burwash, E. Sx. Tel: (01435) 882219.

McLAUGHLIN - On 7th January 1997 at The Dower House, Headbourne Worthy, Winchester. Florence Patricia Alice (Patricia), *beloved wife* of the late Henry McLaughlin. Loving mother *of* Anne *Faithfull* (Australia), Bill McLaughlin and Sandy Tait (deceased). Proud grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at St Swithun's Church, Headbourne Worthy on *16th* January 1997 at 2pm. Family flowers only - Private cremation to follow.

NOON - On January 8th 1997 at St Martin's Hospital, Bath, after a short illness, Olga aged 83, loving widow of Peter and much loved mother of Michael, Sally and Vicki and grandmother of Holly, Ben, Lucy, Tom and Jamie. Funeral Service at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath, at 1 pm on Wednesday January 15th. Family flowers only, donations if desired to R.N.L.I. c/o W.F. Dolman & Son, 9 Walcot Terrace, Bath.

MARTIN - *Hazel Monica (née* Barrett) on Sunday January 5th at York *District* Hospital after a short illness. Mother of six and grandmother of *five much loved children.* Funeral Service at St Andrew's Church, Bishopthorpe, York on Monday January 13th at *1.30pm*, followed by cremation at York Crematorium at *2.30 pm.* Family flowers only, but donations if wished to *Home* Farm Trust c/o J. Rymer, Funeral Directors, 15 *Penleys Grove Street, York* YO3 7PW.

MORRIS - Ann Meeson of Watling House, All Stretton, *Shropshire, much loved* sister of David and Valerie and aunt of Stephen and Timothy, died January 8th. Funeral Service at St *Michael and All Angels*, All Stretton, on *Friday* January 17th 2.30 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations in Ann's memory please to The Shropshire and Mid-Wales Hospice *c/o A.S. Morris & Son* Funeral Directors, Church Stretton, tel: (01694) *722876.*

NOBLE - *Eugenie Louise* ("Itty") peacefully at home on 4th January 1997 aged 91. Beloved wife of the late Group Captain C.H. ("Beery") Noble, OBE. The private cremation was on 9th January in the presence of the family. Donations may be *sent to The Royal* National Institute for the Blind.

OSTERWEIL - Mark Leonard. *On January 2nd, 1997* in New York, aged 24. Beloved son *of Evelyn and Eric.* Loving brother of Marie-Hélène and Michèle and brother-in-law to Andrew and Eli. Cherished grandson of Rose Sokach. Friend to so many, his courage, strength, *and zest for life* were an inspiration.

ROBINS - Margaret Bertha, widow of Walter Townsend Robins, died peacefully in her sleep in her 91st year on 3rd *January 1997.*

SCONCE - Major Esmond Royal Artillery (Retired) on 5th January at Staplehurst Manor Nursing Home. Beloved husband of the late Suzanne (*née Petit*). Funeral at *St Mary's*, Frittenden on Thursday 16th January at 1.30 pm. Flowers may be sent to K.B. Sills of Cranbrook tel: (01680) 712284.

NIBLETT - *Sheila* Florence Margaret (née Taylor) OBE, *dearly loved wife of Roy,* mother of Rosalind and Roland and grandmother of Ben, Jeremy and James, peacefully on January 6th aged 89 years. *The funeral* service will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Amberley, Stroud, on Wednesday January 15th at 12 noon. *Donations in lieu of flowers* to Age Concern or Christian Aid may be sent *c/o Allen*-White Funeral Directors, Kings Stanley, Stonehouse, *Glos.* GL10 3JG.

STROUD - Marjorie Elizabeth (*née Wynne*) peacefully with great dignity on January 4th; beloved wife of Charles. Funeral 14th January at 9.30am St Martin-Le-Tour, *Chelsfield*, Kent.

SWYERS - Norman Eric *peacefully after short* illness on Tuesday 17th December 1996 aged 80. He will be sadly missed by his children, Jill, Ruth, David and Sarah. The funeral was held on January 2nd 1997 in Calgary, Canada.

TABOR - Joan, suddenly on 29th December in Palo Alto, California; were she was spending the christmas *holidays* with her sons Philip and John, there wives and other *relatives.* Cremation and memorial service were in California.

UNWIN - Elizabeth *Strong,* much loved mother of Stephen (deceased), David, Andrew and Mary, *grandmother* of Alexandra, Sophie and Emily, on 9th January after a long illness. Funeral 9.30 am Thursday 16th January Putney Vale Crematorium, Kingston Road, Putney, London SW15. Family *flowers* only. Donations to Trinity Hospice, 30 *Clapham* Common North *Side*, London SW4 0RN.

VAN DOX III - Benjamin Stephen suddenly in Rome on 5th January. He will be much missed by his friends.

WINAYAK - Jitendar on 5th January 1997 aged *67* years, much loved husband, father and grandfather. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

WANTED

MINK COATS, fur coats purchased. Best prices paid. All inquiries/details Box No 1734.

PRE 1940's clothes, linen, lace, fans, patchwork, quilts, embroideries, samplers, shawls, oriental textiles, costume jewellery 0171 229 9618.

ROLEX & CARTIER wanted. High cash prices paid. 0171 495 8992 or visit 51 Park Lane W1.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

HOSEASON-BROWN - *Theodore of Clifton, Bristol,* 6th April 1907 - 6th December 1996. A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Theodore (Teddy) Hoseason-Brown will be held at Christ Church, Mortimer Road, Clifton, Bristol, on Wednesday 5th February 1997 at 11.30 am. All relatives and friends welcome.

SERVICES

PLUMP PARTNERS National Dating Agency. *If you are plump or prefer a plump partner* ring 01352 715909.

TICKETS FOR SALE

ANY TICKET obtained. Theatre, *Concerts* & any sporting events. 0171 488 4474 (City).

ALL SHOWS pop & sport cheapest in London book now Jan 97 all tickets [illegible] 0171-240 3990

ALL AVAIL- Phantom, all theatre, B.Adams, P.Collins, C. Dion, Rugby all sport 0171-480 6185

TICKETS
FIVE NATIONS RUGBY
THE RYDER CUP
CELINE DION
PHIL COLLINS
BRYAN ADAMS
RIVERDANCE
THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
PHANTOM, MISS SAIGON
LORD OF THE DANCE
SUNSET, LES MISERABLES
JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
0171 323 4480
SPORTS TICKET SPECIALISTS

All TICKETS
England v. Scotland 1st Feb, England v. France [illegible] and all 5 Nations Rugby, Lord of the Dance, Riverdance, Luther Vandross, Phil Collins, Kula Shaker, Phantom, Saigon, Sunset, Oliver, Scrooge [illegible]. All c/c acc. Free delivery
0171 247 [illegible]

BRIGADIER MAURICE MacWILLIAM

Brigadier Maurice MacWilliam, DSO and two Bars, MC, Territorial Army soldier, died on December 30 aged 76. He was born in Dulwich on February 7, 1920.

In one of the most remarkable fighting careers of any Territorial Army soldier in the Second World War, Maurice MacWilliam served virtually without break with the same battalion from the Battle of France in 1940 to the end of operations in Italy in May 1945. In that time he progressed from platoon commander to commanding officer and collected the Military Cross and three DSOs.

As the war ended he briefly commanded the redoubtable 169th (Queen's) Brigade, occupying Trieste, a city then in the shadow of the Tito menace. He went on to serve a full and occasionally controversial career as a regular officer but his steadfast refusal to compromise on one matter of principle denied him promotion beyond the rank he had achieved at the end of the war.

Maurice Edgar MacGregor MacWilliam was the eldest son of Edgar McWilliam, Professor of Law at the London School of Economics. After attending St Paul's School, Maurice changed his surname to MacWilliam as he considered the "Mac" more agreeable. He had no aspirations for a military career and joined the tea importers Harrison & Crosfield as a trainee. But he enlisted in the Territorial Army in April 1939. He was commissioned into the newly formed 2/7th Battalion of The Queen's Royal Regiment. He went to France with the battalion in April 1940 as part of 12th (TA) Infantry Division, which was given the primary task of pioneer work on the BEF line of communications.

MacWilliam as a 25-year-old battalion commander in Rome after winning his second DSO

But the German Blitzkrieg of May 10 gave them little time for that and the three Queen's battalions found themselves defending Abbeville after the German breakthrough at Sedan on May 14. MacWilliam won his MC holding an exposed position at Saleux under intense artillery and infantry attack in which he extricated almost the whole of his platoon when it was about to be cut off by German armour.

After evacuation from France through Cherbourg and two years spent ready to play its part in the threatened German invasion of Britain, 169th (Queen's) Brigade embarked for Iraq in August 1942. It was from there that it made what is reckoned to be the longest approach direct into battle — 3,313 miles by truck from Baghdad to Enfidaville, Tunisia.

MacWilliam won his first DSO in command of C Company 2/7th Queen's at the Salerno landing on September 9, 1943. Put ashore in the wrong place, MacWilliam's company met the fiercest resistance from snipers and machinegun positions concealed in the still-standing crops. His company objective was a river bridge, strongly defended by German infantry and armour, across which the enemy could counter-attack. After three separate assaults, MacWilliam took the bridge at the end of the day, thus securing the brigade's left flank.

A year's hard fighting later and with his commanding officer wounded, MacWilliam was in temporary command of 2/7th Queen's during the battles to break through the Gothic Line. In the battle for control of the Gemmano Ridge his two leading companies suffered severe casualties and lost almost all their officers. MacWilliam went forward, reorganised the fire plan and led the two companies on to their objective, remaining to place the heavy weapons ready for the inevitable German counter-attack. It was for this exploit that he received the first Bar to his DSO.

Still a month short of his 25th birthday, MacWilliam was appointed to command the battalion and led it in the crossing of the River Reno and in all the battles which led to the entry into Venice. The citation for the second Bar to his DSO acknowledged not only his brilliant leadership but the low casualties with which his battalion had achieved its objectives.

The war over, the Western Allies were confronted by Tito's threat to Trieste and 169th (Queen's) Brigade was sent to occupy the port. MacWilliam remained in command of his battalion until he was required to take over temporary command of the brigade in October 1945.

MacWilliam then accepted a regular commission, though it was difficult to slot such an accomplished but still youthful veteran into peacetime army life. He instructed at Sandhurst and attended the Staff College, Camberley, but a staff appointment in the War Office convinced him of the need to find proper employment.

He served with the Sudan Defence Force from 1952 to 1954, first as second-in-command and then as commanding officer and was for three years on the directing staff at Camberley. The Queen's Regiment was crowded with talented officers and he knew that his chances of an early command there were slim. He therefore looked again at secondment opportunities and in 1958 was appointed to command the Somaliland Scouts, in what was then British Somaliland. His task was to prepare this force for handover to indigenous officers, a process that he did not find easy. He found the venal aspirations of some of the local officers impossible to stomach and they had to go. The force was finally handed over in excellent shape and MacWilliam established a new reputation as a commander of troops of a country being prepared for independence.

He was next selected as commander of the Federal Regular Army of Aden and the Aden Protectorates. The British Government had promised independence to the territory by 1967 and established a small parliament on the Westminster model. Unfortunately, an ill-timed attempt to extend Adeni control over the Radfan tribal territories provoked an up-country revolt. This was soon accompanied by an outbreak of vicious urban terrorism in the port city. Troops of two British brigades were barely able to contain the violence, while the Federal Regular Army, recently formed from the Aden Protectorate Levies, struggled to regain control over the Protectorates.

MacWilliam reached Aden in April 1964 and quickly pronounced the units of his new command inadequately armed and equipped for the campaign they had to fight. A list of modern weapons and equipment he judged essential was presented to GOC Middle East, together with a demand that replacement of British seconded officers by tribal or Adeni officers should be delayed until the training standards and operational efficiency of the units were both much improved. These requests were turned down, but MacWilliam stood his ground and was replaced. He was reduced to his substantive rank of colonel and sent to an administrative post in England. Ironically, the re-equipment programme that he had recommended was later implemented — but too late to save Aden from anarchy.

Although MacWilliam later commanded a brigade of the Territorial Army and was Chief of Staff in Hong Kong, there can be no doubt that his refusal to accept second best for the Federal Regular Army cost him promotion to general. It is unlikely that he lost much sleep on that account. He placed great importance on his duty to his soldiers.

He retired from the Army in 1970, when he was appointed CBE. From then until 1974 he worked for the Crown Agents and from 1974 to 1985 for the Eastern Electricity Consultative Council, in which office he was a forceful advocate and upholder of consumer interests.

In retirement he lived in Dedham, Essex, and was for several years chairman of the Dedham Vale Society for Rural Preservation. He became the leading authority for the preservation of Constable Country and was heavily involved in strengthening the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and winning important extensions to its territory. Through the Dedham Vale Society he warded off many unsuitable developments.

He married Norah Elizabeth Young, a nursing sister, in 1941. She survives him with their two sons and four daughters.

SIR JOHN STOCKER

Sir John Stocker, MC, TD, PC, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, died on December 27 aged 78. He was born on October 7, 1918.

AS A High Court judge in 1985 John Stocker presided over the 119-day so-called "Cyprus spy-ring" trial, at which seven young British servicemen at a radio monitoring station were accused — and subsequently acquitted — of passing secret information to the Russians. He also conducted the seven-week trial which ended without a conviction four years earlier, following the race riots in Bristol — enhancing his reputation for fair-mindedness by trying to ensure a representative jury.

Stocker could also be tough. Sitting at Maidstone in 1979 he jailed the robber Charles Knight for 21 years after hearing that Knight and his accomplices had made nearly £2 million from a series of armed raids throughout the country.

While still a High Court judge he sat in the Court of Appeal in 1978, upholding the conviction of *Gay News* for a "blasphemous libel" — while quashing the suspended jail sentence on its editor.

Some years later, by this time (and rather belatedly) a Lord Justice of Appeal he helped to overturn a murder conviction of a teenage girl who had killed her mother while suffering from pre-menstrual tension and post-natal depression.

He was one of three judges, however, who turned down an appeal by a pub landlord who had been found guilty of racial discrimination for putting up a sign outside his inn saying "Sorry. No Travellers". He was also one of the judges who rejected an appeal by relatives of six victims of the Hillsborough disaster, who claimed compensation from South Yorkshire Police for nervous shock after watching the horrific scenes on television. In delivering his judgment Stocker said that the relatives were entitled to universal sympathy — but not to damages.

Despite the sequence of high-profile cases which involved him in one capacity or another throughout his long legal career, Stocker made comparatively few headlines himself. A somewhat taciturn man, he was not given to extravagant phrases.

The son of a chartered accountant, John Dexter Stocker was born in Wimbledon, where he was to spend much of his subsequent life. He went first to Westminster School, then to London University to read law. He was an outstanding schoolboy cricketer. Capped for his school's first XI when only 14, he held his place as a medium-fast bowler for the next four years and played for Surrey several times before the war.

He joined the Territorial Army and in 1939 was called up into the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. Posted to the 5th Battalion, he was at Dunkirk and later fought at El Alamein and in Italy, winning his MC at the battle for Monte Cassino. Invited to elaborate, he would drily reply that "it came with the rations".

Stocker, who ended the war as a lieutenant-colonel, had originally meant to be a solicitor. He changed his mind on being demobilised, however, and was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1948.

As a barrister and QC (he took silk in 1965) he built up a highly successful practice, specialising in cases involving personal injury. At one time he acted for the victims of thalidomide. But he also appeared as counsel at the Widgery Tribunal after "Bloody Sunday" of 1972 — when 13 people were shot by British paratroopers during a civil rights march through Londonderry. Perhaps drawing on his own military experience, he sought to refute claims by the bereaved that the soldiers had opened fire indiscriminately.

Stocker was made a Recorder in 1972, then a High Court judge in the following year. He was the presiding judge for the South Eastern Circuit, 1976-79, and was elevated to the position of a Lord Justice of Appeal in 1986, 13 years after he had first gone to the High Court. He was sworn of the Privy Council on his appointment to the Court of Appeal. He retired five years ago.

In retirement he relaxed on the golf course. While younger he had continued to play cricket for many years, mainly for Wimbledon Cricket Club, which he captained. In 1993 he was elected president of Surrey.

Stocker met his wife Margaret through playing cricket: her father also belonged to the Wimbledon club. She died of cancer in 1987 after 31 years of marriage and John Stocker was deeply affected by his loss.

A rather solitary man in recent years, he recovered from a stroke which affected his speech two years ago, but died in a nursing home which he entered shortly before Christmas. He had no children.

DR EDWARD HARE

Dr Edward Hare, psychiatrist, died on December 8 aged 79. He was born on August 21, 1917.

ONE of the outstanding scholars of British psychiatry in the second half of the 20th century, Edward Hare spent his career largely as a clinician and never held an academic post. He introduced epidemiological and environmental dimensions into a speciality which had set little store by them up to the 1960s, and he also showed how historical study could throw light on the origins of psychiatric disorders. His literary side found its fulfilment in his editorship of the *British Journal of Psychiatry*.

The third son of a Church of England clergyman, Edward Henry Hare was educated at Tavernham College, Norfolk, from where he went on to Haileybury. His father died when he was 13. But his mother, who had a strong influence on him, wanted one of her sons to be a doctor, and that eventually fell to his lot.

In fact, his first degree at Cambridge was in biochemistry, but he felt uncertain of his chances of research opportunities in that subject and subsequently changed to medicine. Moving on to University College Hospital, London, he qualified in 1943 but was found to be unfit for military service because of partial deafness.

At Cambridge he had attended John MacCurdy's lectures on abnormal psychology and these inclined him towards psychiatry. But he was then, and remained throughout his life, consistently unsympathetic to psychoanalysis.

His first psychiatric post was at the Cardiff City Mental Hospital (now Whitchurch), and he proceeded from there to four other mental hospitals, moves dictated mainly by a need to find married accommodation.

Ironically, in his first attempt at the Diploma in Psychological Medicine, he was failed in the clinical examination by Sir Aubrey Lewis, who was later to play a significant part in his professional life.

At Barrow Hospital, Bristol, he found a more stimulating scientific atmosphere and wrote his MD thesis on the ecology of mental hospitals, with its effects on patients. This environmental interest led to studies in the distribution of cases of schizophrenia in the city, in which he showed that these were relatively more frequent in the run-down central areas.

Here he confirmed research that had been done in Chicago just before the Second World War. But, whereas the Americans had a whole research team, Hare did all the work himself — as indeed he continued to do throughout his career.

From Bristol, Hare moved to Warlingham Park, Croydon, where he received a summons from Aubrey Lewis, advising him to apply for a consultant vacancy at the Bethlem-Maudsley Hospitals and indicating that the professor's recommendation was generally accepted. Lewis had been impressed by the Bristol research, but the post had large clinical commitments; the only project for which Hare received any real support was a comparison of the mental health of residents of a new housing estate in Croydon with an older area. This study, done with G. K. Shaw, concluded that there was no major difference between living in the two environments, though the people in the new estate had rather better physical health.

Hare's historical interests led him first to study the emergence in the medical literature of syphilitic dementia. He found that the first clear description of the disorder was in the early 19th century, and he concluded that, if it had existed earlier, it would have been unlikely to have escaped description.

He did similar work on schizophrenia and manic-depressive psychosis, and also investigated the "season of birth" effect in schizophrenia whereby 10 per cent more cases than expected were born in the winter months. One of his most impressive lectures, which was never published, was on Michael Faraday's memory problems in later life. All this work was done unobtrusively, nearly always single-handed, and with great meticulousness and determination.

In 1973 Hare succeeded Eliot Slater as Editor of the *British Journal of Psychiatry*. He developed the journal's high scientific standards and paid attention, for the first time, to its finances, discovering that the advertising was actually losing money.

Although as a clinician he had relatively little interest in neurosis and was hostile to psychotherapy, he did not allow these personal views to influence the choice of papers for the *Journal*. He was widely respected for his erudition, his wide cultural background and his application of epidemiological principles to clinical topics. His analysis of questions was always cogent and intellectually rigorous. He played a conscientious role in the life of the Bethlem-Maudsley Hospitals, including chairmanship of the medical committee.

After his retirement in 1982 Hare pursued his extensive reading and became fascinated by computer technology; he was a competent pianist and a skilful rugmaker and needleworker.

His first wife died but he is survived by a daughter of that marriage, Anna, who is a general practitioner. His second marriage ended in divorce. But in his later years he enjoyed great happiness with his third wife, Fiby, who had been a nursing sister and who also survives him.

ON THIS DAY

January 10, 1916

Fortunately the evacuation of Gallipoli displayed none of the miscalculations and inefficiency which bungled the landings in April 1915.

GALLIPOLI.

The following official *communiqué* was issued last night:-

General Sir Charles Monro reports that the complete evacuation of the Gallipoli Peninsula has now been successfully carried out.

All guns and howitzers were got away, with the exception of 17 worn-out guns which were blown up by us before leaving.

Our casualties amounted to one British rank and file wounded. There were no casualties among the French troops . . .

THE ACHI BABA BARRIER.

A MEMORY OF THE GREAT LANDING.

Helles was the first and last position on the Gallipoli Peninsula to be held by British troops. It was there, nearly nine months ago, that the great landing took place under cover of the guns of the Fleet, in which battalion after battalion of British troops, advancing against prepared Turkish positions, was swept by shell and bullet, yet clung on to the narrow rim of beach and rock and refused to give way. After ten days' fighting and an advance which was counted by yards, our losses, inclusive of the troops at Anzac but exclusive of the French, were 177 officers and 1,990 other ranks killed, 412 officers and 7,087 other ranks wounded, and 13 officers and 3,580 other ranks missing. Of the many glorious incidents of this first onslaught one may recall that of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, holding their own opposite Krithia against masses of Turks until they were almost overwhelmed; of the beaching of the transport River Clyde, and the advance of one company after another of the Munster Fusiliers to death; of the storming of Sedd-el-Bahr, when Colonel Doughty-Wylie and Captain Walford were killed; and, lastly, the daring of the Lancashire Fusiliers whose assault of the Turkish trenches near Cape Tekko from open boats under a terrific fire was described as the finest feat of arms ever achieved by British or any other soldiers.

But bravery was of no avail. A few miles from Cape Helles was the height of Achi Baba, which the Turks, taking advantage of the long delay in making a landing, had turned into a fortress which proved impregnable. Its scored and wooded slopes ran down towards Helles and athwart its base the Turks had prepared position after position in the ravines centring on the village of Krithia. Practically the whole of the operations since the landing have been assaults on this Krithia line. Battle after battle has been fought, in which the losses have been heavy on both sides, and in which generally the gains on either side have been very few yards. In July and August the situation altered, and the Krithia fighting became subsidiary to the attempt to turn the Turkish positions from Anzac and Suvla Bay. The failure of this attack, and the subsequent withdrawals from Anzac and Suvla on December 19-20, are fresh in the memory.

The cost of the Gallipoli operations in addition to the naval losses, and the sick up to December 9, were given in the House of Commons. They were:-

Officers: Killed 1,667, wounded 3,028, missing 350, total 5,045

Other ranks: Killed 24,535, wounded 72,781, missing 12,194, total 109,510.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TICKETS FOR SALE
FIVE NATIONS RUGBY '97 Tickets wanted for all Matches. Tel 0171 378 9090

FOR SALE
A BIRTHDATE Newspaper. Original. Superbly presented. Freephone 0800 906609
A NEWSPAPER dated very day they were born £18+p&p. Same day despatch. 0171 726 2626.
THE TIMES - 1791-1996 other titles available. Ready for presentation - also "Sundays". Remember When. 0181-688 6323 or Call Free 0500 520000

OVERSEAS TRAVEL
PORTUGAL & Canaries. All areas. Villas/apts., hotels, pousadas, golf hols, flights. Longmere Int'l. 0181 655 2424. Retail agents ABTA E143X

WINTER SPORTS
ANY day for any number of days the best choice for Ski Weekends & Tailor-made holidays. White Roc Ski 0171 792 1188.

HEALTH & FITNESS
The only bath lift that lets you lie out full length
Operates at the touch of a button
Fits all baths including spas
Jenny, Sarah or Helen are waiting to talk to you now on our FREE careline
0500 223442

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
WINTER SALE NOW ON
100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month.
Branches across London. Service throughout the UK.
0171 935 8682 NW1
0181 854 4517 SE18

CONGRATULATIONS
WINYARD - Ben, of Cowley, off to King's College, Cambridge. Well done!!

FLATSHARE
FLATMATES London's foremost (Est 1970) Professional flat share service. 0171-589 5491
FULHAM Dbl rm in 3 bed sunny newly dec hse, gdn, nr tube. £100pw exc. 0171 371 5041.
HAMMERSMITH large room, own bathroom in large comfortable flat. £90pw + bills. Tel: 0171 602 4025.
SELF-CONTAINED Flat. Lansdowne Crescent W11. Offered in return for help in house. Tel: 0171 727 4736.

FLATSHARE
SOUTHFIELDS Newly dec rm own loo/basin. To let prof N/S, in pretty house, near tube. £90pw inc. Tel: Mrs Short Day 0171 7316328 Eve 0181 8700448.
ST JOHNS WOOD attic room, private, suit male. Nr tubes/bus. £80pw. 0171 3727210.
SW1 2nd Prof. wanted for fully furn flat. Close to Victoria. £125pw excl. 0171 931 7118
WIMBLEDON Prof Female for lovely house in lge garden, nr tube/BR. £110pw inc all bills & cleaner. Tel 0181 946 4839

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS WANTED
FILIPINO Couple housekeeper/handyman. Self-contained accomodation. 01344 24144
FRIENDLY German speaking Nanny urgently required Oberhausen and Florida for 3½ years and 3 month old children. £200 pw, car provided. For details call 01344 24144

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CAPITAL FLIGHTS
Open Daily till late
Malaga fr £89 Turkey £99
Alicante £89 Cyprus £99
Faro £89 Malta £95
Canaries £99 Orlando £169
Palma £99 New York £169
Greece £129 Australia £555
World fares available at discount. Car hire, Hotels and Insurance
0171 209 4000.
ABTA E6560 Retail agents for ATOL holders

EMBASSY FLIGHT CENTRE
Alicante fr £69 U.S.A. £165
Faro £59 Australia £525
Canaries £89 Israel £159
Malaga £65 Malta £99
Greece £129 Cyprus £109
Palma £93 Turkey £109
Retail agents for ATOL holders
0171 419 1919

FARESAVERS
MALAGA £59 GREECE £69
ALICANTE £59 TURKEY £109
FARO £59 ISRAEL £109
TENERIFE £69 MALTA £79
LAS PALMAS £69 CYPRUS £119
LANZAROTE £68 ITALY £59
BALEARICS £59 CARIBBEAN £189
ALL EUROPEAN/WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS ALSO CAR HIRE/INSURANCE
01476 560089

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
COSTCUTTERS on flights & hols to Europe, USA & most destinations. Diplomat Travel Services Ltd. 0171-730 2201. ABTA 25703 IATA/ATOL 1355.
GERMANY Daily low cost flights and hotel accomodation. All major cc. German Travel Centre 0181 429 2900. ABTA 90685 ATOL 2977 IATA.

FLIGHTSEATS
Inexpensive Car Hire Available
Retail Agents for ATOL holders.
Now booking xmas/winter 96 prices from...
Alicante £59 Dalaman £99
Malaga £59 Malta £89
Faro £59 Greece & Isles £99
Palma £59 Geneva £89
Mahon/Ibiza £69 Tel Aviv £129
Tenerife £79 Orlando £169
Lanzarote £79 Canada £229
Funchal £99
01476 574111

JETLINE
Discounted fares to all destinations
SPAIN £49 USA £169
PORTUGAL 79 CARIBBEAN 199
ISRAEL 99 AFRICA 189
GREECE 99 CANADA 179
TURKEY 149 INDIA 255
CYPRUS 149 FAR EAST 249
MID. EAST 189 AUSTRALIA 599
Best quotes on Car Hire and Insurance
0171 360 1111
OPEN 7 DAYS

JETWORLD
CHEAPEST FARES AVAILABLE
SPAIN £59 CAIRO £219
FARO 69 USA 199
MALTA 79 CARIBBEAN 189
GREECE 79 AUSTRALIA 399
CANARIES 79 S.AFRICA 369
Best quotes on Car Hire and Accom.
01273 730930
OPEN 7 DAYS

AIRLINK Worldwide
[illegible]
0171-713-7770

LEGAL NOTICES
NOTICE UNDER SECTION 46 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
LBC Group Ltd
REGISTERED NUMBER: 2761499
FORMER COMPANY NAMES: Maxdow 184 Ltd
TRADING NAMES: None
Notice is hereby given that on 6 January 1997, Murdoch Lang McKillop and Martin Fishman of 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers of the above company by Bank of Scotland under the powers conferred in a debenture dated 28 January 1993 containing fixed and floating charges over the assets and undertakings of the company.
Dated this 7th day of January 1997
MURDOCH LANG McKILLOP & MARTIN FISHMAN
Joint Administrative Receivers

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344
FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be

ANNOUNCEMENTS
CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS
need holidays, so do their families.
Before planning your own holidays this year, please spare more than a thought for those children who without your help will never get away at all.
Donations urgently needed by
The British Kidney Patient Association,
Bordon, Hants, GU35 9JZ.
Regd. Charity No. 270288

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Rescued sailor 'in absolute heaven'

■ Tony Bullimore was in "absolute heaven" on board an Australian frigate after one of the greatest personal survival feats in maritime history.

The British lone sailor had spent nearly five days in an air pocket in the upturned hull of his yacht before being pulled from the Southern Ocean. He had lost the tip of his left little finger and was suffering from minor hypothermia, dehydration and frostbite — but medical staff aboard *HMAS Adelaide* said that he was relatively unscathed .... **Pages 1, 2, 3**

Private schools' marks wrongly upgraded

■ A team of examiners raised the scores of some independent school candidates in last summer's English A level by up to two grades without looking at the papers, said an unprecedented public report by scrutineers .... **Page 1**

Pound surges

The pound rose to its highest level for four years as investors responded to the dramatic gap opening up between the British economy and those of the Continent .... **Page 1**

By-election gamble

John Major has opted for the high-risk strategy of holding a by-election in Wirral South which could put the Tories into a minority administration weeks before the election .... **Page 1**

Oxford rethink

Oxford University has abandoned its controversial plan to site a £40 million business school on a sports ground in the city centre .... **Page 5**

Mother accuses

The mother of six-year-old Rikki Neave, who was found strangled near his home after she neglected him for years, blamed social workers for failing to answer her call for help .... **Page 6**

Branson tries again

Richard Branson flew home and revealed that he will return to Morocco for a third bid to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon .... **Page 7**

New CJD test

Scientists say they have a simple test to give early diagnosis of the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which is linked to eating beef .... **Page 7**

BBC attacked

Sir Paul McCartney attacked the BBC for trying to make The Beatles look like "widow-beaters" in an acrimonious dispute over the ownership of lyrics he wrote 30 years ago .... **Page 10**

Election trail

John Major blazed the election trail 5,000 miles from home when he used a speech in Calcutta to make a pitch for the Asian vote in Britain .... **Page 12**

Scientology stars

Dustin Hoffman, Goldie Hawn and other Hollywood stars joined forces with top film producers, directors and writers to attack German discrimination against Scientologists .... **Page 13**

No to euro vote

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, ruled out the possibility of a referendum on economic and monetary union although three-quarters of Germans say they favour one .... **Page 14**

Dangerous hormones

State pharmaceutical officials in France distributed growth hormones to children that could cause the Creuztfeldt-Jakob disease, said a magazine ..... **Page 15**

Strikers attacked

Korean police raided the headquarters of striking trade unionists and were poised for an attempt to remove other leaders from a cathedral .... **Page 16**

Keeping warm at cold comfort zoo

■ For the penguins and the wolves, it is like home from home. But the snowy wastes of London Zoo are proving less than hospitable for some of the species from warmer climes. As temperatures remained at freezing point, keepers were at full stretch to keep up the spirits and keep warm the bodies of inmates like the Asian lions, Kamal and Ruchi .... **Page 5**

Traffic crawls along the icy road link between north Kent and the Isle of Sheppey yesterday. Boy dies in pond, page 1

BUSINESS

Lloyd's: The insurance market is expected to announce profits of more than £1 billion for the second-year running. Profits are expected to hold up well for the next few years .... **Page 26**

Warning: Shares in Sears fell after the store group that owns Selfridges told the stockmarket that profits for the year would be well below the previous figure of £100 million .... **Page 25**

Marks & Spencer is to acquire the Gyle Shopping Centre in Edinburgh from the City Council for £122 million .... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 0.5 to 4087.0. Sterling's index rose from 96.1 to 96.6 after rises from $1.6881 to $1.6935 and from DM2.6539 to DM2.6688 .... **Page 28**

SPORT

Football: Bobby Robson, who recently started a two-year contract with Barcelona, emerged as favourite to succeed Kevin Keegan as Newcastle manager .... **Page 48**

Rugby union: Brian Ashton, who resigned from the English champions Bath earlier in the week, was appointed coach of Ireland in succession to Murray Kidd ... **Page 48**

Motor racing: Damon Hill described the Arrows Yamaha A18 car he will drive in the coming season as "a sexy little number" when it was launched in Birmingham .... **Page 48**

Tennis: Tim Henman reached the semi-finals of the Sydney International tournament with a three-set victory over Alex O'Brien, of the United States .... **Page 40**

ARTS

Grey pop power: David Sinclair says the attention paid to David Bowie's 50th birthday merely confirms the musical contribution of mature rockers .... **Page 34**

Treasure chest: As some of the 100,000 works saved for the nation go on show, Richard Cork looks at the achievements of the National Art Collections Fund .... **Page 35**

Rich man, poor man: Wallace Shawn's play *The Fever* tugs at liberal consciences through Clare Coulter's performance of the nice woman tormented by images of poverty .... **Page 35**

Healing wounds: World music band Tarika stir up controversy and mark a grim African anniversary with a hauntingly beautiful collection .... **Page 36**

Valerie Grove interviews Alice Oswald, up against stiff opposition on the shortlist of the T. S. Eliot Prize for the best new collection of poetry this year .... **Page 18**

Controversial figure: This has in many ways been the German century and Ernst Jünger, now 101, has helped to call its tune .. **Page 19**

Healing power of plants: Prescribed correctly, homeopathic remedies can alter the way the body uses food, helping it to assimilate nutrients .... **Page 17**

Children first: The future of the Assisted Places Scheme hangs in the balance .... **Page 39**

Own goal: Is it prejudice that can keep soccer off the syllabus of many independent schools? .... **Page 39**

Busy people: Managers cannot spare the time to go to business schools, so many schools are offering executive courses .... **Page 39**

The American arrears in payment with [illegible] weighs in at more than $1 billion. To procrastinate again would be very bad manners towards the international community. The often moralising discourse of America would find itself deprived of a good measure of its judiciousness — *Le Monde*

Preview: A new series of Stephanie Calman's perceptive comedy, *Dressing For Breakfast*, begins (Channel 4, 9.00pm) **Review:** Matthew Bond on a *Watchdog* special ...... **Page 47**

OPINION

Elephant among tigers

It is because India is such a different country today that Mr Major's journey is timely, his time well spent .... **Page 21**

Toon and city

Newcastle United's strip may be black and white, but this story is not as clear-cut as the club's fans may believe .... **Page 21**

Heroes of the deep

Effortless failure, characterised by stoicism, understatement and a refusal to blame others, is admired almost more than effortless success .... **Page 21**

COLUMNS

BERNARD LEVIN

If fewer and fewer plays turn up (and I mean plays for which it is worth getting out of an armchair), it will be not a nuisance but a great hole in the fabric of our land. We *can* live without the theatre, of course, but I fear that if it withers and dies, nothing will bring it back to life .... **Page 20**

MICHAEL GOVE

Actors as distinguished as Dustin Hoffman and producers as powerful as Aaron Spelling have allowed their reputations to be demeaned by endorsing the unequal equation of anti-Semitism and opposition to Scientology .... **Page 20**

PHILIP HOWARD

The British have always been ambivalent about sea savages. Under our mongrel skin we are a piratical race. After the Romans, the three tidal waves of invaders who made Britain were pirates: Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans (Vikings come to roost) .... **Page 20**

OBITUARIES

Brigadier Maurice MacWilliam; Sir John Stocker, former Lord Justice of Appeal; Dr Edward Hare, psychiatrist .... **Page 23**

Howard responds on Police Bill; monarchy debate; screen test for *Hollywood Lovers*; English National Opera; Project 2000; combating dementia; Australian visas; Peter the Great .... **Page 21**

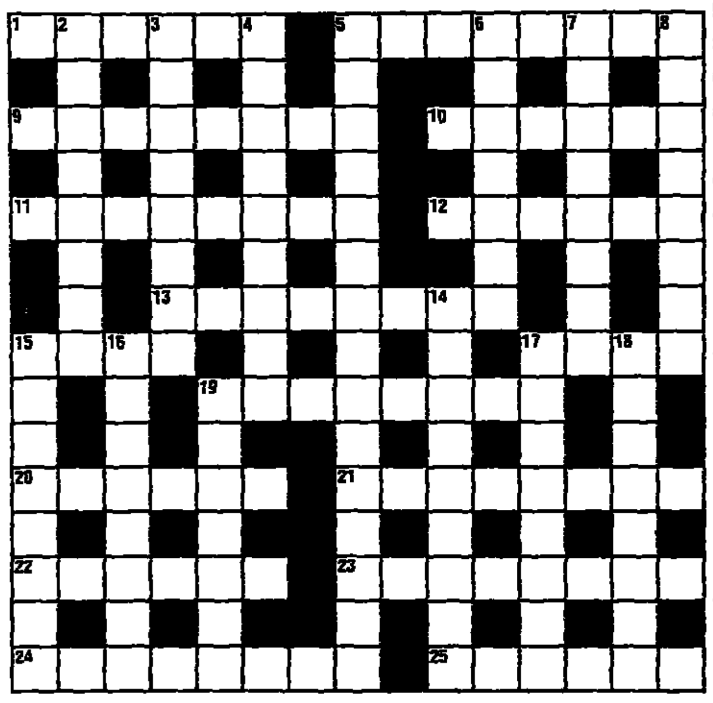
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **WEEKEND**
The allure of Spain: from Pamplona to the Costa Brava, Marbella and Majorca

■ **MAGAZINE**
Bavarian Rhapsody: in fashion with flounces, frills and military-style greatcoats

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,373



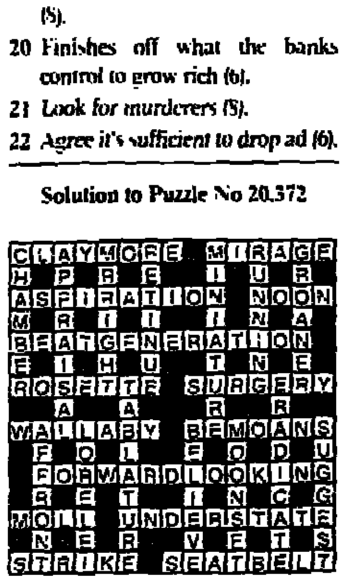
ACROSS

1 Change design of screw around (6).
5 Female gets correct cow (8).
9 Second dish in messy spread (8).
10 Tribute paid after death of Yorkshire writer (6).
11 Careless hit-and-run (8).
12 Sew up American girth split by extra pound (6).
13 Flying bomb comes within an iota, somehow, of flying (8).
15 Sound of exposed brook (4).
17 List some of the elements (4).
19 In the past, following sound lead (8).
20 Finishes off what the banks control to grow rich (6).
21 Look for murderers (8).
22 Agree it's sufficient to drop ad (6).
23 Home I left before a year — that's an injustice (8).
24 Lied translated into our equivalent, indirectly (8).
25 German writer follows essay with English article (6).

DOWN

2 Shot almost lands in river — one's been fired (8).
3 Cut down, tree seen to come up again (8).
4 Robin Hood robbed so enthusiastically (4,1,4).
5 I might not be free to take new order at present (3,3,4,5).
6 Troublemaker effects change of leadership in foreign government (7).
7 Absurdly altering figure (8).
8 Lunatic — he will constitute a hard case (8).
14 New organ isn't under control (2,1,6).
15 Support from nanny, might one think? (8).
16 Versatile new drivers used in a game of golf (3-5).
17 Delicate weed seen in large numbers? On the contrary (8).
18 Weird desire suppressed by churchman, lacking some energy (8).
19 Crucial note to bigwig held up (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,372



CLAYMORE MIRAGE
H P R E I U R
ASPIRATION NOON
M R I I I N A
BEATGENERATION
E I H U T N E
ROSETTE SURGERY
A A R R
WALLABY BEMOANS
F O L E O D U
FORWARDLOOKING
R E T I N C G
MOLL UNDERSTATE
N E R V E T S
STRIKE SEATBELT

Times Two Crossword, page 44

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather- All regions	**0336 444 910**
UK Roads - All regions	**0336 401 410**
Inside M25	0336 401 746
M25 and Link Roads	0336 401 747
National Motorways	0336 401 748
Continental Europe	0336 401 910
Channel crossings	0336 401 308
Motoring to Heathrow & Gatwick airports	0336 407 505

Weather by Fax

Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax

West Country	416 334	Scotland	416 340
Wales	416 335	N Ireland	416 341
Midlands	416 336	London	416 342
East Anglia	416 337	National Satellite Weather picture	416 397
N West	416 338		
N East	416 339		

Metfax Marine

Marine & surf forecasts	416 398

World City Weather

153 destinations world wide
5 day forecast

by **Phone** dial	0336 411216
by **Fax** (index page)	0336 416333

Motoring

Europe Country by Country	0336 401 885
European fuel costs	0336 401 886
French Motorways	0336 401 887
Seaport information	0336 401 882
Disneyland Paris	0336 401 409
Le Shuttle	0336 401 895

AA Car reports by fax

new and used car reports from the AA menu of 195 cars	0336 416 399

Dial from your fax handset, you may have to set to poll receive mode

AA Developments Ltd.
Norfolk House Priestley Road Basingstoke RG24 9NY

Calls are charged at 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Ronaldsway, Isle of Man, [illegible]; lowest day max: Dunkeswell, Devon, [illegible]; highest rainfall: Folkestone, [illegible]; highest sunshine: Aspatria, Cumbria, 4.8hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will be cold again. It will be mainly dry but rather cloudy, and there may be some light wintry showers around, especially in eastern England. The far west might have thicker cloud later in the day, and it will also become breezy there.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be rather cold. Mainly dry with some bright or sunny intervals, these mostly in northwest Scotland. Eastern Scotland and the Northern Isles might have the odd wintry shower. Windier conditions with rain and snow might reach Northern Ireland by midnight.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E England, NE England:** Apart from the odd light snow flurry, most places should be dry with some bright intervals. Wind mainly east or southeast, light to moderate. Cold. Max 1C (34F).

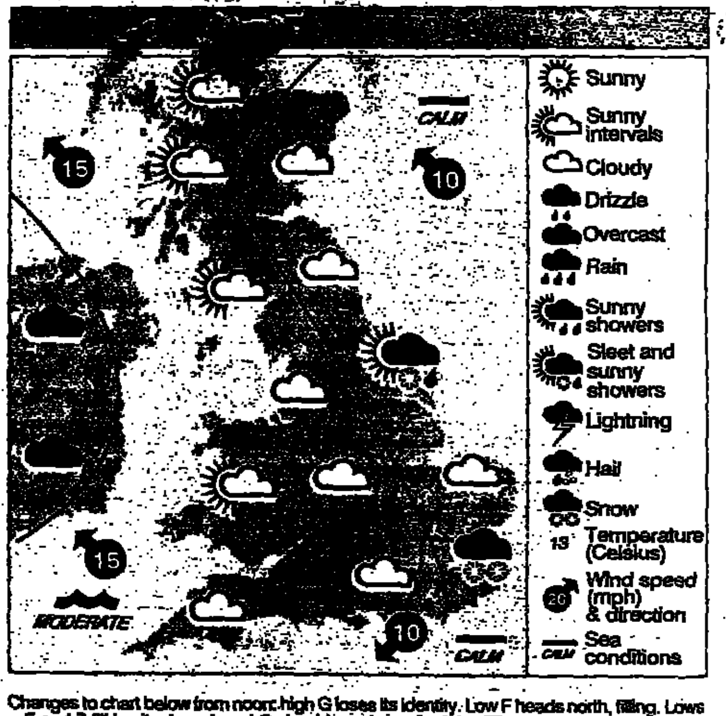
☐ **Central S England, Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England:** Mainly dry, some bright, perhaps sunny, intervals. Wind mainly east or southeast, light to moderate. Cold. Max 1C or 2C (34F to 36F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** Rather cloudy, some light wintry showers at times. Wind southeasterly, light to moderate. Cold. Max 1C (34F).

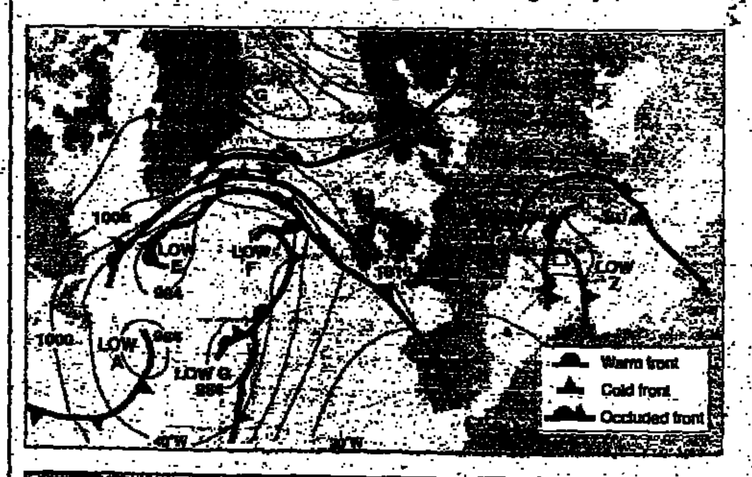
☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland:** Dry, some bright or sunny intervals. Becoming cloudier later. Wind southeasterly light to moderate, increasing fresh later. Cold. Max 2C to 4C (36F to 39F).

☐ **N Ireland:** Rather cloudy but mostly dry. Rain or sleet in the evening. Wind southeasterly, moderate to fresh, perhaps strong later. Cold Max 3C (37F).

☐ **Outlook for the weekend:** Rain and snow in the northwest, becoming mainly dry on Sunday. Milder.



Changes to chart below from noon: High G loses its identity. Low F heads north, filling. Lows E and Z fill in situ. Low A and G should amalgamate, later filling as they spread north



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.01	2	36	sh	Leeds	-	0.01	3	37	c
Anglesey	X					Lerwick	-	0.01	3	37	b
Aspatria	4.8	-	3	37	s	Leuchars	-	0.01	3	37	sh
Aviemore	-	-	-1	30	c	Littlehmptn	-	0.01	1	34	sn
Belfast	2.5	-	5	41	b	London	-	0.04	2	36	sn
Birmingham	X					Lowestoft	-	0.02	1	34	c
Bognor R	-	0.01	1	34	sn	Manchester	0.5	0.01	3	37	c
Bournem'th	-	0.07	1	34	d	Margate	-	0.15	1	34	sn
Bristol	-	0.01	1	34	c	Minehead	-	0.01	1	34	c
Buxton	-	0.01	0	32	c	Morecambe	4.3	-	4	39	s
Cardiff	-	0.01	1	34	c	Newcastle	0.2	0.06	4	39	sl
Clacton	-	0.06	1	34	sn	Newquay	X				
Cleethorpes	X					Norwich	-	0.01	1	34	du
Colwyn Bay		0.01	3	37	c	Oxford	-	0.01	1	34	sn
Cromer	-	0.01	1	34	du	Penzance	X		2	36	du
Dunbar	X					Poole	-	0.01	2	36	sn
Eastbourne	-	0.12	1	34	sn	Prestatyn	X	0.01	3	37	du
Edinburgh	3.7	0.07	5	41	sh	Ross-o-wye	-	-	1	34	du
Eskdalemuir	2.2	0.01	2	36	sn	Ryde	X				
Exmouth	-	-	0	32	du	Salcombe	X				
Falmouth	-	-	1	34	c	Sandown	-	0.01	2	36	sl
Fishguard	-	-	1	34	c	Saunton Snd	-	-	1	34	du
Folkestone	-	0.30	1	34	sn	Scarboro	0.4	0.04	3	37	c
Glasgow	5.[illegible]	-	4	39	c	Shanklin	X				
Guernsey	-	0.01	4	39	c	Skegness	-	-	2	36	c
Hastings	-	0.13	1	34	sn	Southport	-	-	3	37	c
Hayling I.	-	0.01	2	36	sl	Southsea	-	0.01	2	36	sn
Herne Bay	X					Teignmouth	-	0.01	1	34	c
Hove	-	X	2	36	s	Tenby	-	-	3	37	c
Hunstanton			2	36	s	Torquay	-	-	1	34	du
Ilfracombe	X					Tynemouth	-	0.02	5	41	c
Isle of Man	X					Ventnor	-	0.01	1	34	sl
Jersey	-	0.02	3	37	sl	West-s-mare	-	-	1	34	du
Kinloss	X					Weymouth	-	0.01	1	34	c

ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	12	54	f	Corfu	13	55	f	Majorca	10	50	r	Rome	13	55	b
Akrotiri	13	55	f	C'hagn	-2	28	sn	Malaga	17	63	s	S Fr'isco	14	57	s
Alex'dria	25	77	[illegible]	Dublin	0	32	sn	Malta	16	61	s	S Paulo	32	90	c
Algiers	18	64	f	Dubrovnik	11	52	f	Melb'rne	16	61	c	Salzburg	-4	25	c
Amst'dm	-7	19	c	Faro	16	61	f	Mexico C	18	64	s	Santiago	31	88	s
Athens	14	57	[illegible]	Florence	13	55	s	Miami	27	81	s	Seoul	0	32	s
B Aires	29	84	s	Frankfurt	-6	21	sn	Milan	2	36	fg	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bahrain	22	72	[illegible]	Funchal	18	64	f	Montreal	-12	10	fg	St'kholm	-6	21	c
Bangkok	32	90	s	Geneva	-1	30	c	Moscow	-6	21	f	Strasb'rg	-4	25	c
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	15	59	f	Munich	-6	21	c	Sydney	19	66	c
Barcelona	5	41	f	Helsinki	-3	27	sn	N Delhi	17	63	s	Tangier	17	63	f
Beirut	20	68	f	Hong K	22	72	c	N York	1	34	s	Tel Aviv	22	72	s
Belgrade	-1	30	f	Innsbrck	-4	25	s	Nairobi	25	77	f	Tenerife	23	73	f
Berlin	-6	21	sn	Istanbul	10	50	r	Naples	14	57	f	Tokyo	9	48	f
Bermuda	17	63	c	Jeddah	30	86	s	Nice	7	45	f	Toronto	-5	23	s
Biarritz	6	43	s	Jo'burg	25	77	f	Oslo	-11	12	fg	Tunis	15	59	f
Bordeaux	6	43	f	L Angels	X			Paris	-3	27	c	Valencia	9	48	f
Brussels	-9	16	s	L Palmas	22	72	s	Peking	-4	25	s	Vanc'ver	7	45	c
Budapest	1	34	s	Le Touquet	-5	23	f	Perth	40	104	s	Venice	6	43	s
Cairo	26	79	[illegible]	Lisbon	15	59	f	Prague	-6	21	sn	Vienna	-2	28	c
Cape Tn	22	72	[illegible]	Locarno	4	39	s	Reykjavik	1	34	d	Warsaw	-11	12	c
Ch church				Luxembg	-6	21	s	Rhodes	18	64	f	Wash'ton	X		
Chicago	-3	27	[illegible]	Luxor	27	81	s	Rio de J	31	88	f	Wel'ngton	16	61	X
Cologne	-6	21	[illegible]	Madrid	5	41	f	Riyadh	21	70	s	Zurich	-3	27	c

Temperatures at midday, local time on Wednesday. X = not available

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	02.14	7.4	14.39	7.5	Leith	03.03	5.8	15.19	5.9
Aberdeen	01.48	4.5	13.58	4.6	Liverpool	11.50	10.0	-	-
Avonmouth	07.50	14.0	20.15	13.8	Lowestoft	10.04	2.6	22.12	2.7
Belfast	11.37	3.7	-	-	Margate	00.17	4.8	12.46	4.9
Cardiff	07.38	12.9	20.01	12.8	Milford Haven	06.48	7.4	19.12	7.3
Devonport	06.21	5.7	18.48	5.5	Newquay	05.39	7.4	18.08	7.2
Dover	11.30	6.9	23.59	7.0	Oban	06.21	4.3	18.41	4.1
Dublin (N Wall)	-	-	12.03	4.4	Penzance	05.08	5.9	17.31	5.7
Falmouth	05.52	5.5	18.19	5.3	Portland	07.53	2.3	20.26	2.2
Greenock	00.54	3.4	13.21	3.7	Portsmouth	11.51	4.9	-	-
Harwich	00.11	4.1	12.38	4.2	Shoreham	11.45	6.5	-	-
Holyhead	10.52	6.0	23.20	5.8	Southampton	11.17	4.8	23.48	4.8
Hull (Albert D)	06.53	8.8	19.06	9.1	Swansea	06.51	10.1	19.15	9.9
Ilfracombe	06.34	9.7	18.58	9.8	Tees	-	-	-	-
King's Lynn	06.57	7.0	19.10	7.3	Walton-on-N	00.01	4.3	12.27	4.4

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

Sun rises: 8.03 am	Sun sets: 4.14 pm
Moon sets 4.28 pm	Moon rises 8.51 am

First quarter January 15

London 4.14 pm to 8.03 am
Bristol 4.24 pm to 8.12 am
Edinburgh 4.03 pm to 8.38 am
Manchester 4.12 pm to 8.21 am
Penzance 4.41 pm to 8.18 am

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1997. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Kirkby Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Friday, January 10, 1997. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

ECONOMICS
Anatole Kaletsky on the outlook for 1997
PAGE 29

ARTS
How Van Dyck's little princesses *stayed British*
PAGES 34-36

SPORT
Hill aims to please in *new Arrows*
PAGES 40-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JANUARY 10 1997

Merrett will not work in Lloyd's again after £1m deal

By Jon Ashworth

STEPHEN MERRETT, the former Lloyd's of London deputy chairman who was accused of "negligence, incompetence and dereliction of duty" in a High Court case two years ago, is to pay £1 million in damages, and will never work at Lloyd's again.

Mr Merrett, once one of Lloyd's most powerful underwriters, has *struck a deal with Lloyd's, in return* for protection from future legal action. Major Ronald Ferguson, father of the Duchess of York, and Adam Faith, the actor-singer, are among names who lost more than £300 million on Merrett Syndicate 418. The £1 million will be paid to the 1,900-strong Merrett Syndicate 418 (1985) Names' Association.

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, and Sir Rocco Forte, the hotelier, are among other names involved. Under the deal, the *Merrett underwriting agencies have* agreed to pay about £2.2 million to Lloyd's, representing their share of the £225 million contributed by underwriters to the Lloyd's settlement. Mr Merrett will not, at any time, be a director, employee or shareholder of any company in the Lloyd's market. He will become a party to the settlement — protecting him from future lawsuits from names — but will receive no debt credits in the settlement of his finality bill.

Lloyd's has agreed to drop its inquiry into Mr Merrett. The ultimate sanction of a £1 million "fine" and a self-imposed ban on working in the market is unlikely to have been matched by any disciplinary tribunal. Mr Merrett resigned as deputy chairman of Lloyd's in September 1993, after intense pressure from senior figures in the insurance industry. The Merrett names saw their efforts rewarded in November 1995, when they were awarded landmark damages in the High Court.

Mr Justice Cresswell, the presiding judge, expressed "serious reservations" about Mr Merrett's approach as an underwriter, in a damning 640-page judgment. Mr Merrett, he said, gave inadequate time and attention to his duties, and was "unconvincing" in his evidence in court. The judge was equally critical of Ernst & Young, which was deemed negligent in its role as auditor to the Merrett syndicate.

The Merrett deal must still be *ratified by the Council of Lloyd's* and the board of Equitas. John Mays, chairman of the Merrett 418 action group, said: "I'm pleased that we've drawn a line under the litigation, and that there is a benefit to our members."

Mr Merrett was formerly one of Lloyd's most powerful underwriters. He joined the business built up by his father, Roy, in 1963, and became chairman of Merrett Group in 1976.

£1bn profit, page 26
Pennington, page 27

Sears warning puts Strong job at risk

By Sarah Cunningham

LIAM STRONG, chief executive of Sears, is facing intense pressure from institutional shareholders to quit after the Selfridges to British Shoe retail group yesterday issued a profit warning and revealed abysmal trading figures for the Christmas season.

It is thought that Mr Strong may be forced out within the next few days.

The company said that sales at shops open throughout the second half of its financial year had risen only 1 per cent, and had then dipped to 0.5 per cent below last year's level in the crucial Christmas period. It said that pre-tax profits for the year to January 6 would be significantly below last year's £100 million.

One fund manager said *yesterday: "We are fed up with* it, it has been going on too long. Strong is being well-rewarded to do a good job, and he isn't doing it."

Another leading institutional shareholder said: "It is clearly not working. Strong has been there five years, which is a reasonable amount of time for it to work. It is the job of the chairman to sort it out and I'd expect him to do so. The problem might be finding someone to replace him."

Sears insists that Mr Strong retains the backing of the board and of Sir Bob Reid, the chairman. A spokeswoman said that he would not be leaving the company.

However, one leading analyst noted: "Kevin Keegan kept on saying he wasn't leaving, until he did. Strong has got to go because it is now completely impossible for him to stay." He said he expects Mr Strong to leave in the next few days. "Advisers and non-executive directors have got to pass on the message from investors," he said.

Mr Strong joined Sears in 1991 from British Airways, where he was marketing and operations director. He became chief executive in 1992 and last year received pay of £445,000, including a performance bonus of £52,000. He is on a two-year rolling contract.

Criticism of his inability to draw a respectable financial performance from Sears escalated after the sale of the group's shoe shops to Stephen Hinchliffe's Facia group backfired.

When Facia collapsed last year, the shop leases reverted to Sears. The only known buyer of Sears' shares in recent weeks has been Philips & Drew Fund Management, which has now built up a stake of around 12 per cent.

Analysts believe that Sears is most likely to be broken up, with a bid from a property company thought possible. *They estimate a break-up* value of around 110p per share. However, Sean Eddie, an analyst with NatWest Markets, said: "British Shoe is a horrible disincentive to anyone who might buy the Sears group."

Sears is expected to announce the sale to Littlewoods of its Freemans mail order arm for around £350 million early next week.

The only factor holding up Sears' shares, which fell 4p to 87½p yesterday, is the prospect of a special dividend from the Freemans' sale, analysts said.

City followers reduced their forecasts for full-year pre-tax earnings from more than £100 million to around £80 million.

Sears said that sales at British Shoe were down 2.8 per cent in the second half. Freemans sales were down 6.5 per cent, while at Selfridges they increased 8.2 per cent, below expectations.

However, Sears did see improvements at the Wallis, Warehouse, Richards and Miss Selfridge womenswear chains.

Pennington, page 27

Liam Strong is backed by the board but not institutions

Christmas trade short of retailers' hopes, says CBI

By Sarah Cunningham

CHRISTMAS trading failed to reach most retailers' expectations, according to a Confederation of British Industry survey out today. The survey will dampen fears that Britain is in the midst of an unsustainable Eighties-style consumer boom.

The findings are expected to be used by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to argue against a rise in interest rates next Wednesday, when he meets Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. However, the City believes that at best Mr Clarke may be able to postpone a rise until February, and the Bank is still expected to push for an immediate move. Figures from the British Retail Consortium, out next Tuesday, will be watched for firm evidence of the sector's performance.

The CBI's distributive trades survey for December shows that the growth in sales volumes slowed compared with the previous six months and is "substantially" lower than predictions made in November. While sales volumes were well above those of a year ago, with about half of retailers reporting increased sales, 19 per cent said that sales were down. Most retailers expect sales to be steady in January.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI panel responsible for the survey, said: "Most retailers had a good Christmas. The slowdown in the rate of sales growth reflects a major jump a year ago, so the increase in trade was measured from a high base."

Highest volume increases were enjoyed by booksellers, stationers and food sellers. Footwear, DIY, furniture, carpet, hardware and china experienced a slowdown.

Maria Holton, of Thorn Lighting won honours for her expertise as an engineer

Holton lights the way for women engineers

By Our Business Staff

MARIA HOLTON was yesterday named 1996 Young Woman Engineer of The Year. *Ms Holton, 29,* is a major project engineer with Thorn Lighting at Romford, Essex.

The award is sponsored by the Institution of Electronics and Electrical Incorporated Engineers (IEEIE) and the Caroline Haslett Memorial Trust. It aims to highlight the growing role of women in the engineering industry and to encourage more women recruits.

Diane Delaney, 22, from Oldham, Lancashire, was winner of the Mary George Memorial Prize. Ms Delaney is a test engineer with MEM 250v, where her responsibilities include the testing of new and existing products and the calibration of equipment and instrumentation.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4087.0	(-0.5)
Yield	3.81%	
FTSE All share	2008.15	(-1.29)
Nikkei	18073.87	(-606.51)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6619.90	(+70.42)*
S&P Composite	754.27	(+5.86)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	96 15/32*	(95 21/32)
Yield	6.78%*	(6.84%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 7/16%	(6 15/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	108 27/32	(108 7/16)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6945*	(1.6880)
London:		
$	1.6941	(1.6883)
DM	2.6694	(2.6529)
FFr	9.0098	(8.9651)
SFr	2.3136	(2.2951)
Yen	196.11	(195.41)
£ Index	96.6	(96.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5780*	(1.5750)
FFr	5.3230*	(5.3205)
SFr	1.3680*	(1.3645)
Yen	116.18*	(115.82)
$ Index	98.9	(98.9)

Tokyo close Yen 116.37

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar)	$24.35	($24.20)

GOLD

London close	$355.55	($355.75)

* denotes midday trading price

Lloyd's profit

The Lloyd's of London insurance market is expected to announce profits of more than £1 billion for the second-year running. Profits are expected to hold up well for the next few years despite falling rates and fears of over capacity in the insurance market.
Page 26

On the defensive

General Motors has received bids of around $9 billion for Hughes Electronics, its defence arm, from both Raytheon and Northrop Grumman.
Page 27

M&S shopping for property

By Sarah Cunningham

MARKS & SPENCER is set to become a landlord on mainland Britain for the first time by buying one of Edinburgh's biggest shopping centres.

It has agreed to buy the Gyle Shopping Centre in Edinburgh from the city council for £122 million, it revealed yesterday.

The 300,000 sq ft complex, which is close to Edinburgh airport and was opened just four years ago, will be the first shopping centre to be owned by Marks & Spencer on the British mainland. The only other shopping centre that its owns is Sprucefield, in Northern Ireland.

Marks & Spencer said it had taken up the option to buy the centre once the city council decided to sell because it wants to expand and reorganise its own store at the centre, which currently occupies 78,700 sq ft.

A spokesman for Marks & Spencer said that the decision to buy the shopping centre did not imply that it intended to become a big player in retail property: "It is a one-off deal to secure our own interests," the comapny said.

Marks & Spencer prefers to own the freehold on its shops and so already owns much of the property it occupies. However, many of the shopping centres that have been built in recent years have been handled by developers, meaning that stores operating from them have not been able to own the freehold.

The other main occupier of the Gyle centre is a Safeway supermarket. In all, there are 65 tenants of the centre, which attracts some 300,000 visitors a week.

Edinburgh City Council said it had decided to sell the centre because it wanted to raise funds to spend on education and transport.

Tempus, page 28

SFO fines Kleinwort Benson

THE securities arm of Kleinwort Benson has been fined £30,000 with costs of £7,900 and two of its former traders reprimanded by the Securities and Futures Authority for rule breaches (Robert Miller writes).

The SFA said Kleinwort had admitted that between July and September 1995 Alistair Truelove, a manager and trader in European convertible notes and warrants, breached City and in-house rules on marking positions on certain trades. He was also fined £7,500 with costs of £3,000. His assistant, Philip Steel, paid £2,000 in costs.

The SFA also said that Meville Ipe, an ex-employee of Merrill Lynch International Bank, was fined £7,500 for *putting a private client in an* unsuitable investment that incurred a $47,270 loss. Full compensation was paid.

Tanvier Malik, another Merrill Lynch employee, was *fined £15,000 for failing to* record transactions properly.

Powerful pound swells corporate casualty list

By Eric Reguly and Janet Bush

STERLING'S upward march claimed British Steel, Imperial Chemical, BOC Group and Burmah Castrol as its latest corporate casualties and analysts warned that the barrage of earnings downgrades and profits warnings that have hit leading stock market com*panies this week is expected to* continue.

Market strategists said the ratings of any company with signficant overseas operations is under threat. Steve Wright, of BZW, the securities firm, said: "There are more to come and, in some case, they will be massive downgrades."

The City began to revise its earnings forecasts in November *when the pound's rise has* already begun to steepen dramatically — but what had been a trickle has turned into a flood. Even as British companies started to acknowledge *the damage that sterling's rise* is wreaking on their bottom lines, the pound rose even further yesterday. It ended at 96.6 on its effective index against a basket of currencies — its highest level for four years.

It closed on Wednesday at 96.1, which was also the level at which it ended 1996. This was 15.6 per cent higher than *at the end of 1995. During the* course of last year, the pound soared 24 per cent against the yen, 18.7 per cent against the mark, 16.9 per cent against the French franc and even 10.3 per cent against a resurgent *dollar.*

Many economists believe that the pound is likely to continue its climb, buoyed by relatively strong economic growth, accompanied by high*er interest rates.*

Companies with large foreign sales whose costs are largely in sterling will fare worse. Analysts said British Steel's exports, especially to continental Europe, could be severely hit. About 40 per cent of sales are made outside the UK.

Merrill Lynch, SocGen and NatWest Securities all down*graded their earnings fore*casts for British Steel yesterday. Merrill Lynch was the most bearish, slashing its prediction for British Steel's 1997-98 financial year from *£650 million to £280 million.*

For large pharmaceutical companies, downgrades will hit headline profits but will have little effect on the operational level. Their drug prod*ucts are usually produced in* the countries in which they are sold, so currency fluctuations have virtually no effect on prices and their ability to compete. SmithKline Beecham, for example, has 42 per cent of its sales and 42 per cent of its costs in America.

Pennington **27**

computing faxing imaging copying printing

Canon copiers latest feature, 50% reduction

Unbelievably, for the first time ever, Canon are offering their best selling Copier at 50% off. A saving of over £1400. It only lasts until the end of January. So if you want to make the most of this half-price offer, get a Canon while you can. For more information contact your Local Participating Authorised Supplier or Phone 0500 801 801.

NP 1550

If anyone can Canon can.

Canon

Lloyd's expected to top £1bn for second year

By Jon Ashworth

LLOYD'S of London is expected to announce profits of more than £1 billion for the second year running this summer. And profits are expected to hold up well for the next few years, in spite of falling rates, and fears of over capacity in the insurance market.

Profits for the 1994 underwriting year are estimated at £1.18 billion, according to Chatset, the insurance analyst. Lloyd's made a profit of £1.084 billion in 1993 — a sharp reversal on the £1.2 billion loss of 1992. Rates were high in 1993, and there were few of the catastrophes that dogged the market in the late 1980s.

Lloyd's, which has previously forecast 1994 profits of £1.008 billion, is due to publish the precise numbers in May or June. Figures are published three years in arrears. Chatset forecasts bottom-line profits of more than £1 billion for 1994, £850 million for 1995, and £600 million for 1996.

Of the individual markets, marine has performed exceptionally well in 1994 and 1995, and the anticipated profit in 1996 is above average. Non-marine has also done well, and aviation should produce a respectable profit in each year. The area of weakness is motor. Chatset has downgraded its profit forecast for 1994 from £109 million to £57 million. In 1995, motor is expected to show a loss of £12 million, compared with a forecast of £67 million.

Chatset said corporate capital's presence at Lloyd's had increased from 30 to 44 per cent in the past two years, prompting concerns about over-capacity. Chatset said: "With all sections of the market suffering from weakening rates, the last thing it needs is over capacity and a scramble amongst underwriters for business. The futher influx of corporate capacity would appear to be completely unjustified."

Capacity at Lloyd's is expected to increase by 3.3 per cent to £10.32 billion in 1997. Just over half — £5.78 billion — will be provided by 9,972 individual names.

☐ Lloyd's has been licensed to transact business in Japan's domestic insurance market for the first time in the deregulation of the Japanese insurance market. Sir David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, will officially launch Lloyd's Japan Inc at a ceremony in Tokyo in March.

Pennington, page 27

Mortgage lending reaches 7-year high

By Robert Miller

THE housing market received a further filip yesterday with news from Barclays that mortgage lending has reached its highest level for seven years.

Barclays said that its latest Mortgage Index shows the value of gross mortgage advances in December 24 per cent up on the same month in 1995. Total gross lending for last year as a whole is expected to reach £71 million — the highest since 1990. The bank said that last year's figure is 32 per cent higher than that in 1992, when lending fell to £53.7 billion.

The Barclays index follows the prediction this week from Savills, the international property consultant, that residential property prices could rise by as much as 12 per cent this year, compared with 8.5 per cent last year. Looking further ahead, Savills said that house prices could be expected to increase by up to 50 per cent over the next three years.

Barclays said that its consumer confidence research showed that there is a "significant" mismatch between homebuyers and sellers. The bank found that one in six people, or 18 per cent, are looking for a new home but only 8 per cent, or one in 13, is prepared to put their home on the market.

In regional terms, homeowners in London and the South East are most likely to put their homes on the market, reflecting the area's increase in house prices last year, said the bank. The least confident homeowners in terms of house price expectations come from Yorkshire and Humberside, according to the survey.

Jim Chadwick, a director of Barclays Mortgages, said: "There is no doubt that 1996 was a good year for the housing market and we expect the recovery to continue. Although further growth is unlikely to be at the high levels of the last few months, large annual increases of up to 30 per cent are not really sustainable or desirable in the long term."

As far as the immediate future was concerned, Mr Chadwick said that "uncertainty about interest rates and the general election are unlikely to dampen demand significantly, but will probably continue to attract homebuyers to fixed-rate mortgages."

Pledge to wind-up Exmoor

EXMOOR DUAL, the split capital investment trust, could be the subject of a new bid after the board's announcement that it will propose early liquidation if supported at an extraordinary meeting on February 3.

Analysts said that the door was "wide open": even after taking 3 per cent liquidation costs into account, the £18.2 million trust will still stand at a 13.7 per cent discount to net asset value. This could tempt an outside manager to buy out Panther Securities, which has 29.9 per cent of the trust's voting shares. Panther is seeking to oust the board and convert Exmoor into a property fund.

Liquidation could give ordinary shareholders 16½p and income shareholders 62.2p. Panther's offer was 9p and 36p.

PETER TREVNOR

Tony Fraher, left, with Alan Hansen, who will be acting as consultant to the fund

Football fund kicks off amid doubts

By Adam Jones

THE first fund investing solely in football clubs and associated companies was launched yesterday amid scepticism about the liquidity of the sector.

The Football Fund, run by Singer & Friedlander, is aiming to raise about £30 million initially. Tony Fraher, chief executive of Singer & Friedlander Investment Funds, claimed it was possible that the fund, an open-ended investment company fund recognised by the SIB, could grow as large as £200 million. However, there is scepticism over the ability of the sector to support an investment vehicle of this size.

The fund is employing Alan Hansen, the *Match of the Day* pundit, as a consultant on a three-year contract. He will analyse performance on the pitch, since league position affects a club's share price. Mr Hansen will also assess youth development policies — a good one can provide cheap players.

One broker said illiquidity in shares of unquoted clubs — several trade on Ofex — made buying and selling difficult.

Initially, the Football Fund will concentrate on football-related shares, including JJB Sports, Nike, BSkyB and construction companies involved in stadium building. British clubs will eventually account for 45 to 55 per cent of the fund; European club shares, such as Juventus, will also be held. The minimum investment in the fund is £1,000.

Second energy sector role for Eggar

By Christine Buckley

TIM EGGAR, the former Energy Minister, yesterday took on his second role at a company in the energy industry less than six months after leaving the Government.

His appointment as a non-executive director at Monument Oil drew sharp criticism from Labour. It follows his appointment in November as part-time chairman of MW Kellogg, an engineering business that gets much of its work in the energy field.

John Battle, Labour's spokesman on energy, said that although within the law the move raised questions about the desirability of ex-ministers moving to jobs in companies in areas with which they had dealt.

Mr Eggar, who is leaving Parliament at the election, will have special responsibilities at Monument for overseas interests. He is expected to be remunerated above the typical rate for a non-executive director at Monument of £15,000. His pay for Kellogg was tipped as a substantial six-figure sum. He was not available for comment.

The Nolan committee, which conducted the review into public standards, recommended a wait of three months before Cabinet ministers should take up commercial appointments after leaving the Government.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

End in sight for VW dispute with Opel

THE long-running dispute between Volkswagen and Opel, General Motor's German subsidiary, is close to a resolution. An out-of-court settlement over claims that VW spied on Opel could be announced today. VW said: "It is possible that an announcement will be made. Not all the details are finalised. An agreement is very close to being worked out."

According to the *Handelsblatt* newspaper, Klaus Liesen, the VW supervisory board chairman, and John Smale, GM's executive chairman, reached an agreement to settle the dispute. Under the terms of the settlement, VW will buy components from GM on a long-term basis and will shoulder a large part of GM's legal expenses. In return, GM will drop its US civil suit for damages against VW. Demands for an apology from VW have apparently also been dropped. The three-year old dispute centres on accusations that José Ignacio López de Arriortúa, VW's purchasing manager, was involved in industrial espionage when he left GM for VW.

French go-ahead for BA

BRITISH AIRWAYS yesterday won court approval to acquire Air Liberté, the insolvent carrier, and expand its presence in the French air travel market to more than 20 per cent. Dominique Leveque, president of the Créteil commercial court, said the court agreed to the plan presented by BA and Banque Rivaud, its French partner, to take control of Air Liberté and invest Fr780 million. Although the French industry and Government were initially reluctant to allow Air Liberté to fall into foreign hands, M Leveque said there was no "acceptable alternative plan".

New structure at AIB

AIB, the Irish banking group, has formed a new holding company for AIB Investment Managers and John Govett & Co, two investment management firms AIB acquired in December 1995. AIB Asset Management Holdings will be headed by Kevin Pakenham, who will remain chief executive of John Govett. Patrick Cunneen, managing director of AIB Investment Managers, becomes vice-chairman. Mr Pakenham said the new company would enable the two businesses to cooperate globally. In the UK the two retail businesses have been combined and renamed Govett Unit Trusts.

US wholesale surge

WHOLESALE prices in America recorded their biggest increase all year in December, as surging energy prices offset an otherwise calm inflation report. The US Labour Department said the producer price index advanced 0.5 per cent, after rising 0.4 per cent in November. The December rise was the biggest since December 1995's gain of 0.6 per cent. However, excluding food and energy prices, the core rate of inflation rose only 0.1 per cent, matching November's rise. Economists had forecast a 0.3 per cent increase in wholesale prices overall and a 0.1 per cent rise in the core rate.

Toy Options wins deal

TOY OPTIONS, the toy distribution and marketing company, yesterday won a licensing contract from the European consumer products division of Warner Bros, the Hollywood film studio, to design, manufacture and market toy watches and clocks in 35 countries. The moulded products will be based on animated Warner characters such as Superman and Batman. The contract was acquired through World Wide Licences, a Hong Kong company that was bought by Toy Options for $1.6 million in December.

Goode in higher gear

THE decline in vehicle hire rates has bottomed out, according to Goode Durrant, the fast-growing car and van rental company, that reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £15.2 million (£13.4 million) in the half year to October 31. Earnings were 18.5p a share (16.3p) resulting in an interim dividend of 3.2p (2.8p). Michael Waring, chairman, said the recovery in the housing market was helping trading conditions and should set the scene for a record set of full-year results. Goode Durrant shares gained 9½p to close at 418½p.

Scholl sells Septivon

SCHOLL, the healthcare company that is selling non-core assets to concentrate on its footcare and footwear brands, yesterday sold Septivon, its antiseptic cleansing product, to Chefaro International of France for about £13.9 million. Septivon, which represented 10.8 per cent of Scholl's operating profits in 1995, was sold for the same price for which it was acquired in 1993. Scholl said that it is in negotiations to sell Laboratoires Valdor, a cosmetics business in France.

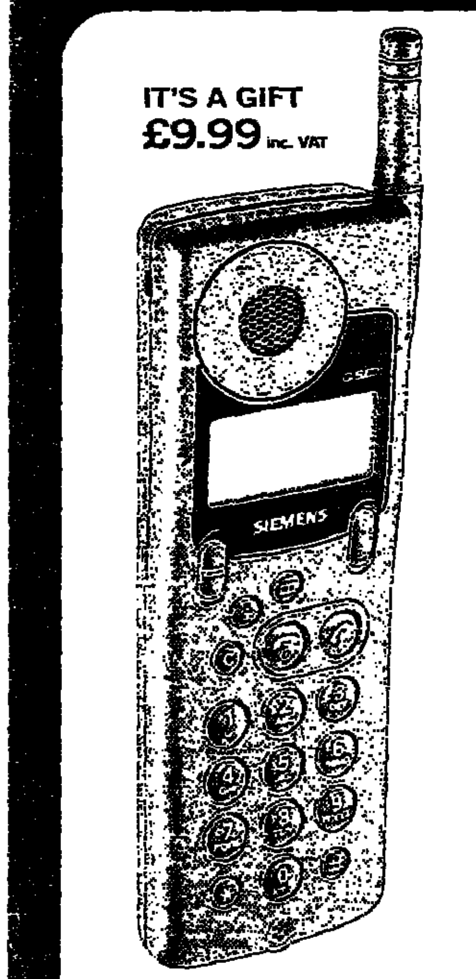
Contract boosts BNFL

BNFL, the nuclear waste group, extended its international drive yesterday after the award of a £650 million US contract to a consortium led by BNFL's American division. The contract is for the designing, building and operating of a waste-treatment facility at a former weapons research and design site in Idaho. BNFL will use some technologies developed at Sellafield on the project, while its engineering subsidiary will work on the robotics needed for the development.

Northern board changes

NORTHERN ELECTRIC, the regional electricity company, has made the first changes in board structure after its takeover by CE Electric of the US, bringing in eight new directors. David Sokol, chairman and chief executive of CalEnergy, CE Energy's parent company, is among the new names. John Grieves, a director since October 1, 1996, has resigned, the UK electricity firm said. CE Electric paid £651 million for Northern, based in Newcastle, after narrowly winning a tightly-fought and controversial takeover battle.

Get more for your money with Cellphones Direct.



IT'S A GIFT £9.99 inc. VAT

FREE 2 MONTHS LINE RENTAL WORTH £35.26 INC. VAT

FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE AND IN-CAR ADAPTOR WORTH £55

FREE SAVE UP TO 50% ON SHOPPING AND LEISURE WITH THE CELLPHONES DIRECT ADVANTAGE CARD

FREE £10 (inc. VAT) WORTH OF CALLS

FREE LIFETIME PRODUCT WARRANTY

FREE 14-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

PRICE PLEDGE - We guarantee to match any nationally advertised price for this phone.

VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD TARIFF
CONNECTION CHARGE £35.25 (£30+VAT)
MONTHLY RENTAL £17.63 (£15+VAT)
ONE SECOND BILLING

SIEMENS NEW GSM MODEL S6.

Siemens has chosen Cellphones Direct to spearhead the launch of Germany's favourite mobile phones to Britain. The exceptionally slim and ultra-light Siemens S6 brings enhanced levels of hi-fi audio clarity and pocketability to budget priced phones.

- Up to 4 hrs talk-time
- Up to 30 hrs standby-time
- Up to 200 name/number memory SIM dependent
- SMS send and receive
- Fast recharge
- Lithium Ion battery
- Weight 165g

FREEPHONE 0800 000 888 Cellphones

CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 9PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 6PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT HANDY WHEN YOU CALL AND QUOTE REF 5166 (SORRY WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT SWITCH CARDS).

Compass lifts board bonuses

COMPASS GROUP, the contract catering company, awarded its directors total bonuses of £634,000 last year, up from £536,000 in the previous 12 months (Martin Barrow writes).

The rise in bonus payments followed a 56.1 per cent rise in profits before tax and exceptional items to £114.3 million in the 12 months to September 30.

Total directors' remuneration increased to £2.7 million from £2.1 million previously. The latest total included salaries and bonuses paid to three directors who joined the board during the course of the previous year. The remuneration of Francis Mackay, chief executive, was £556,000, including a bonus of £105,000, and was little changed from £559,000 previously.

Warning after lottery mailshot

By Paul Durman

THE Home Office has warned the public not to send money to overseas companies purporting to run lotteries.

An Australian organisation called The Territorian Lottery this week mailed British homes, congratulating people for having a chance to share in an £18 million tax-free prize fund. The mailshot, postmarked Budapest, highlights seductive phrases such as: "You are the jackpot winner and are now a multi-millionaire." It contains sonorous but empty statements including: "Be duly informed that the following has been approved unanimously by The Board and is fully guaranteed."

It soon becomes clear that to claim your "winnings" it is necessary to send £5 to a post office box number in Australia. No other address is given.

The Home Office said it is against the law to promote or advertise an overseas lottery within the UK. Although not yet tested in the courts, mailshots such as Territorian's would seem to be covered by this prohibition, part of the 1976 Lotteries & Amusements Act.

The Home Office has come across similar lotteries but it has proved difficult to take action because they are outside British jurisdiction. Territorian's mailshot carries pictures of winners, each of whom is said to have received £1 million. None is named.

PIA rules help to cut investment costs by 3.9%

Disclosure forces fall in fees

TOUGH new rules requiring insurance and investment companies to reveal their management fees have led to a drop in overall charges, according to a report (Marianne Curphey writes).

However, investors with a high-charging company could still pay five times as much as the clients of companies with much lower charges.

The regulations, known as disclosure, were introduced in the wake of the pensions mis-selling scandal and forced financial services companies to make their charges clearer and more comprehensible.

In its second annual report, the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), of which Colette Bowe is chief executive, says that charges overall have fallen 3.9 per cent in one year. Those companies that had been the most expensive showed the biggest improvements.

However, for a ten-year endowment unit-linked policy, one of the lowest-charging pensions from Equitable Life would cost £300 out of total contribution of £3,600 over five years based on premiums of £60 a month. A similar product from Hearts of Oak Friendly Society, would cost £1,500 out of a total contribution of £3,600. Other high-chargers were Pearl, United Friendly (which has merged with Refuge to become United Assurance), Wesleyan Assurance Society, Windsor Life, Albany International, and Reliance Mutual.

The study found that there was little difference between the price of direct products and those sold by an adviser. The PIA also found evidence of investors bartering with advisers over charges if they intended to make large contributions to policies.

Bowe: fee improvements

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.26	2.10
Austria Sch	19.71	18.21
Belgium Fr	57.79	53.49
Canada $	2.395	2.235
Cyprus Cyp£	0.832	0.777
Denmark Kr	10.72	9.92
Finland Mkk	8.53	7.88
France Fr	9.39	8.74
Germany Dm	2.81	2.60
Greece Dr	434	409
Hong Kong $	13.71	12.71
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.99
Israel Shk	5.78	5.13
Italy Lira	2717	2562
Japan Yen	211.00	195.00
Malta	0.652	0.597
Netherlds Gld	3.138	2.908
New Zealand $	2.54	2.32
Norway Kr	11.52	10.72
Portugal Esc	277.50	259.00
S Africa Rd	8.48	7.69
Spain Pta	231.00	218.00
Sweden Kr	12.41	11.51
Switzerland Fr	2.44	2.28
Turkey Lira	193300	181300
USA $	1.789	1.659

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES FRIDAY JANU

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

End in sight for V

dispute with Opel

French go-ahead for

New structure at AB

US wholesale surge

Toy Options wins

Goode in higher

Scholl sells Septim

Contract boosts BN

Northern board chai

n fees

☐ Not-so-merry Christmas for retailers ☐ Reasons behind rash of profits downgradings ☐ More trouble ahead in Lime Street

Seasonal sales lack lustre

PENNINGTON

☐ THERE are many pressing questions that trouble us in the dark early days of 1997. Can the monarchy survive? Why do some Scots drive around in cars advertising their nationality — in French? Will it ever be warm again? And after that nightmare dash for last-minute presents the weekend before Christmas, when the shops were crowded and everyone was so bad-tempered, why does nobody else seem to have bought anything?

The seasonal trading statements now trickling out from retailers are already a mixed bunch. Some of the specialists, selling jewellery, computers, greetings cards or sports goods, did well. The more broad-based chains had a less spectacular Christmas. Sears has capped a dreadful 1996 with a profits warning. Argos, trading update out today, is not likely to be exciting, by comparison with the expectations the company has built up. Others such as Next, Boots and Littlewoods will be out in the next few days.

It is hard to see how the Sears predicament can get worse, but the record suggests management is well up to the task of ensuring *it will*. Trading at Selfridges was lacklustre, even if most of the damage was elsewhere in the group. The most startling figure, a like-for-like fall of 0.5 per cent in all Christmas sales, will be seized as evidence by critics of the management, but it is likely to be repeated elsewhere.

The kindest outcome for Sears, and the expectation of most analysts, would be for the group to be put out of its misery by a break-up, whether by present management or a hostile takeover. Either way one of Pennington's forecasts for 1997, an exit from shoe retailing and the departure of Liam Strong, the chief executive, would seem to be in the bag.

The rest of the retailers went into Christmas with high hopes, after a good November and fair start to December. The CBI's Distributive Trades Survey indicates, and figures from the British Retail Consortium on Tuesday are likely to confirm, that those hopes were not met.

There are some technical factors to do with when the holidays fell this year, but broadly there was a slump in the second week of last month and then a last-minute rush that may not have been enough to offset this. This compares with the strong Christmas performance a year ago, and it suggests some of the other like-for-like comparisons this time may be closer to the Sears experience than the reported 8 per cent rise by Dixons.

These Christmas trading statements are an agreeable enough ritual that enlivens what are traditionally quiet times for the market. But the real significance is in the rate of sales growth for last year as a whole.

Tony Shiret, at BZW, is shooting for 3 per cent and is not going to be too far off. That is a healthy enough rise by any measure, especially when you strip out the dogs such as Sears and House of Fraser. The high street has enough to celebrate already.

Forecasts are for changing

☐ WHAT fun it will be this summer, browsing through the *menu gastronomique*, a chilled glass of *kir* at hand — and the pound sufficiently close to that ten-franc level we all really think it is worth, so no tortuous mental arithmetic when the bill arrives. But the City, with its sudden rash of profits downgradings, is not able to take so rosy a view. There is more to the mass outbreak of pessimism over profits for 1997 than the recent rise in sterling, even though this has been the sharpest in percentage terms since 1981. A similar exercise took place last year, when forecasts of earnings for 1996 were deemed to be too high.

The City went into 1996 with the expectation that non-financial stocks would see earnings growth of 12 per cent; the actual figure is now expected to come out at 6 or 7 per cent. Much adjustment was needed to forecasts in the meantime.

Likewise that figure for 1997 is in some places still at 10 per cent; about half this looks achievable. In the UK labour cost pressures are running ahead of inflation, and that low inflation environment does not allow these to be passed on to customers.

Add to that the pound, clearly the most significant factor behind the latest gloom, and the fact that continental markets do not appear to be picking up as fast as some had hoped. Analysts are always a bit behind the action in responding to rising sterling, because no one can yet quite believe in a strong pound. Assume sterling stays where it is, or European currencies fall, as they must. More downgradings look inevitable.

But it is always worth making a distinction, as the market often does not, between stocks that suffer through translation of profits earned abroad because those profits are worth less in sterling terms, and those of this week's victims whose trading has actually suffered. In the former category are drug companies, for example; in the latter the likes of British Steel, with the miserable job of exporting against a strong pound.

And never forget that analysts like moving their profit forecasts, whether up or down, because this stimulates business. The rule has always been, forecast early and forecast often.

Still in a stew at Lloyd's

☐ FUNNY place, Lloyd's. In one corner, council members are pinning on medals and collecting knighthoods. In the other, a former deputy chairman effectively submits to a £1 million fine, and pledges never to work in the Lloyd's market again. Out in the shires, more than 2,000 names are still waiting for cheques promised to them three months ago. Several hundred more are waiting for the day when the bailiffs come calling.

Ponder this for a moment, and one realises how little has changed. Reconstruction and Renewal (R&R) was supposed to be a harbinger of peace and tranquility. Hard-pressed names could write — or receive — that one last cheque, and kiss goodbye to the whole sorry business. No such luck.

The black-balling of Stephen Merrett is one of several running themes. Before Christmas, Lloyd's admitted to embarrassing delays in sending out cheques to 12,000 names owed £570 million under R&R. So far, 9,800 have received £370 million, and no-one knows when the process will end. Stories persist of names receiving the wrong amounts. Court action by Lloyd's against non-paying names is expected to resume next week.

Profits in 1994 are expected to top £1 billion, but weakening insurance rates and increasing over-capacity could yet leave their mark. Throw aggrieved names into the pot, and one is left with a fiery dish with a lingering after-taste. Sample with care.

Reward for loyalty

☐ TIM Eggar is gathering rewarding posts in the North Sea oil industry he did so much to promote as Energy Minister, unemployed miners and British Gas shareholders will note. But his latest job at old chum Tony Craven Walker's Monument Oil and Gas, following the chair of oil engineer Kellog's UK arm, suggest that even an energetic 45-year-old Tory minister who timed his exit early is not finding that big one easily. Those MPs who fight and lose their seats may yet regret that they abolished unemployment benefit.

Raytheon fights Northrop for GM defence arm

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

GENERAL MOTORS has received offers of about $9 billion for Hughes Electronics, its defence arm, from Raytheon and Northrop Grumman in the first round of what is expected to become a fierce bidding war for the business.

Raytheon was told by GM that its bid was about $500 million lower than that of Northrop and is likely to raise its offer.

Both it and Northrop are determined to win because they see the purchase of Hughes as essential to their survival in the restructuring of the US defence industry.

As the industry consolidates after the end of the Cold War, a few giant defence conglomerates have emerged, leaving smaller companies looking vulnerable. Hughes is one of the last major defence companies up for sale. The danger for Raytheon and Northrop is of over-extending themselves by bidding too much since they would both have difficulties in financing a bid that included more than about $5 billion in cash.

Analysts said that Raytheon could have particular difficulty after its $3 billion bid on Monday for the defence electronics division of Texas Instruments.

GM, however, has made it a condition of the bidding for Hughes that about half the purchase price must be in the shares of the bidding company. Raytheon and Northrop are therefore competing not just on price but on which company has the better prospects and can offer the best fit for Hughes.

Raytheon argues that it is a larger and more financially stable group than Northrop. It also says that Hughes, which specialises in missile technology, would make a good strategic fit with its operations.

Raytheon and Northrop are both considerably smaller than the largest US defence groups created out of a flood of mergers and takeover during the past four years.

The largest of these deals, the $19 billion merger of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas announced shortly before Christmas to create the world's biggest aircraft manufacturer, was triggered by GM's decision to put Hughes up for sale. Boeing went ahead with the deal when it became concerned that McDonnell would buy Hughes, which would have made it too expensive for Boeing to purchase at a later date.

RTZ-CRA sells mine in dispute

BY CARL MORTISHED

RTZ-CRA, the mining group has sold Century Zinc, the Australian company that is at the heart of an aboriginal land title dispute, to Pasminco for A$345 million (£160 million). The buyer, a local, has paid a deposit of A$10 million with the balance due after the issue by the government of Queensland of valid leases allowing the Century project to proceed.

Huge zinc deposits were identified by Century in Northern Queensland in 1990 and the company planned a development capable of producing 780,000 tonnes of concentrate a year, but the development has been dogged by claims that the indigenous aboriginal title to the land had never been extinguished.

RTZ-CRA said that it had invested more than A$240 million to date in the Century Zinc project. Pasminco has contracted to take half the output.

Offer cracks down on special deals

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

Littlechild: concerned

THE electricity watchdog yesterday launched a crackdown on special deals offered to small businesses that lock them into contracts with suppliers well beyond the date by which they will be able to shop around for energy.

By April 1998, households and users of less than 100Mw of electricity will be able to buy energy competitively, but some regional companies are offering small non-domestic users cheaper prices if they agree to long-term contracts.

Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, said he was "concerned" about discriminatory treatment of different customers and the damage it could do the development of competition in 1998.

The Office of Electricity Supply also wants to make sure the deals are not being made at the expense of other customers. All customers with the same tariff should enjoy the same opportunities from a regional monopoly supplier.

All the regional electricity companies are being questioned about such contracts after a series of inquiries to the regulator from customers.

Ex-Swalec chief to run McKechnie

BY PAUL DURMAN

MCKECHNIE, the plastic and metal components group, yesterday announced the surprise departure of Mike Ost, the company's chief executive for the past ten years.

Mr Ost is to leave his £240,000 a year job in March. He will be replaced by Andrew Walker, who was chief executive of Swalec until the South Wales electricity company was taken over by Welsh Water at the end of 1995.

Vanni Treves, McKechnie's chairman, said Mr Ost's departure was a mutual decision taken after lengthy discussions. "He's 52. He's got one more big job in him," Mr Treves said. "It was time for him to go elsewhere, leaving the company in great nick."

McKechnie, which has a stock market value of nearly £600 million, recently reported annual pre-tax profits of just over £50 million. Mr Ost yesterday repeated his view that McKechnie was poised for another year of significant progress. "The group is sound and has an excellent management team performing well, as will be evidenced by the next set of figures."

Mr Treves said Mr Ost will not receive a lump-sum compensation payment for the loss of his job. He will receive his salary, plus possible bonus entitlements, for a maximum of 18 months. Although McKechnie's profits have grown consistently, recent progress has depended almost entirely on acquisitions.

Mr Walker, 45, joined Swalec in November 1993. He was previously managing director of Dowty's polymer engineering division.

Tempus, page 28

Jurys checks in with 39% profits advance to £7.7m

FROM EILEEN McCABE IN DUBLIN

Progress at Jurys was pleasing to Peter Malone

JURYS, the hotel group based in the Republic of Ireland, believes its ability to attract a large share of the corporate business market should ensure that its new Belfast unit will not suffer as a result of the resumption of violence north of the border. The first Jurys Inn in Northern Ireland is due to open in April.

Barry Sheehan, director of finance and corporate affairs, said Jurys was attracted to Belfast because of the steady corporate business market there rather than the potential expansion of the tourist trade.

He said: "We, like everyone else, would like to see an end to the violence. But we think the business market is there and will always be there, and Jurys will get its share".

Yesterday Jurys, where Peter Malone is managing director, reported a 39 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to Ir£7.9 million (£7.7 million) for the six months to October last year. Turnover was up 17 per cent to just over Ir£29 million. Excluding contributions from its new units at Cardiff and Dublin, turnover rose more than 15 per cent. Earnings grew 21 per cent to Ir14.5p a share.

The strong performance was fuelled by the booming economy in the Republic and the sustained recovery in Britain. The corporate business sector accounts for more than a half of the turnover in its eight units in the Republic and four in Britain.

As well as its Belfast unit, Jurys plans to open a 151-bedroom hotel in Limerick and begin work on its 165-bedroom unit in central London soon. The interim dividend rises 13 per cent to Ir2.6p, payable on March 10.

Confidence lifts Clinton share price

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

CLINTON CARDS and the Electronics Boutique, the retailer of software and video games, both reported a surge in sales in December.

Clinton, Britain's largest greeting card retailer, reported sales up 15.2 per cent in the five weeks to December 29. It said: "Together with more buoyant trading during last autumn, the board is confident of comfortably exceeding current market forecasts." The statement sent its shares leaping 30p to 225p.

Electronics Boutique reported an even stronger 30 per cent rise in like-for-like sales in the month of December. For the 11 months to January 4, like-for-like sales were up 39 per cent.

Joe Firestone, chairman, said: "Last year's loss of £8.5 million will be history, as we expect to show a small profit for the year to January 31, 1997, as planned."

☐ TJ Hughes, the discount department store group, said there had been good like-for-like growth in December. The shares rose 1½p to 80½p.

Bates leaves Simpson's GEC to chair Premier Farnell

Weinstock lieutenant bows out

BY PAUL DURMAN

MALCOLM BATES, Lord Weinstock's long-time lieutenant at the helm of GEC, has become the latest casualty of the start of the George Simpson era at Britain's leading engineering group.

Mr Bates, GEC's deputy managing director since 1985, is to retire from the electronics and power systems company at the end of March, after more than 16 years on the board.

Mr Simpson, the highly regarded former chief executive of Lucas Industries, succeeded Lord Weinstock as GEC's managing director last September, and is conducting a wide-ranging overhaul of the group's interests. This is expected to produce a series of substantial disposals this year.

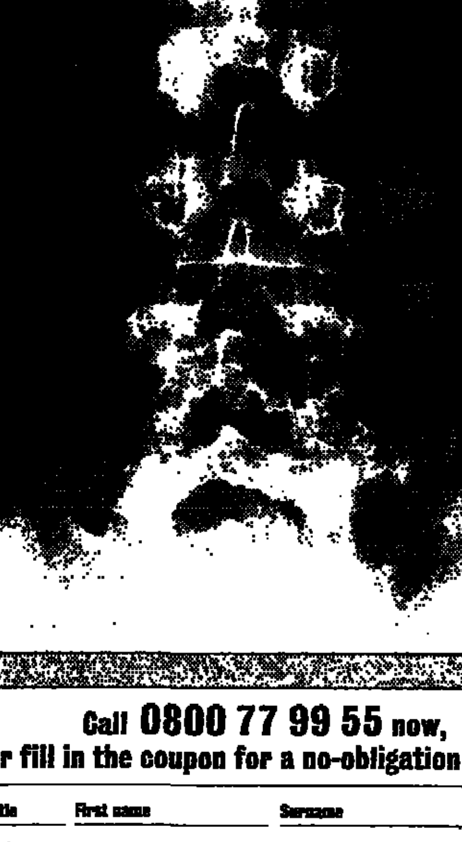
It was also announced yesterday that Mr Bates is to become non-executive chairman of Premier Farnell, the £2 billion electronics component distributor formed from a controversial merger last year. Mr Bates, 62, replaces Richard Hanwell, who retired last month.

Premier Farnell said it believed Mr Bates's "top level strategic experience" will be invaluable to its future development. Howard Poulson, chief executive, said: "I am really looking to tap into his experience from being very senior in a very large company." Mr Poulson identified two areas where Mr Bates could be of help: looking at the organisational issues and "the stresses and strains that occur within large companies", and his understanding of running businesses overseas.

Mr Poulson said Premier Farnell still had to address "lots of cultural problems between different countries". He said the group had largely overcome the more centralised management approach that Farnell Electronics had found within Premier Industrial.

Mr Bates, a member of the Government's Industrial Development Advisory Board, is also chairman of Pearl Group, the Australian-owned insurer.

City Diary, page 29



Ouch!
You've just discovered your health insurance won't pay to have it treated.

Imagine not being able to afford treatment, because your health insurance doesn't adequately cover you.

It happens, because many policies have gaps in the cover they offer. Unlike some others, Primecare from Prime Health provides cover for treatments like out-patient physiotherapy and osteopathy. It also gives you full cover for surgeons', anaesthetists' and physicians' fees.

All this comes at an equivalent price to some companies' budget schemes – and we're one of the few to offer a no-claims discount of up to 50%.

Call us now to see how your policy compares to Primecare.

Prime Health
A member of the Standard Life Group

Call 0800 77 99 55 now,
or fill in the coupon for a no-obligation quote.

Title First name Surname
Address
Postcode
Phone (inc. STD code) Day Evening
Date of birth of the eldest person requiring cover
Cover required: Single ☐ Married ☐ Family ☐ Single parent family ☐
Renewal date of current insurance (if applicable)
If you'd prefer a representative to visit please tick box ☐
Please post to (no stamp required) Prime Health Limited, FREEPOST, (GI 2192) Guildford, GU1 4BR. http://www.primehealth.co.uk
MO3 169 NG

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

London rebounds after good news boosts Dow

SHARE prices in London clawed back a 37-point deficit to close virtually all-square on the day after Wall Street moved sharply higher in early trading last night.

Inspired by an early gain of almost 82 points in the Dow Jones industrial average, the FT-SE 100 index fought back to finish the session 0.5 down at 4,087.0. The Americans were responding to the largest monthly rise in producer price figures since March last year and the biggest year-on-year rise since 1990.

It boosted US Treasury bonds and paved the way for a strong rally by equities. London was sucked along in its wake.

Earlier in the day London had struggled to contend with a steady stream of profit downgradings by brokers concerned by the impact of a strong pound on the big overseas earners.

ICI dropped 14p to 751p as HSBC James Capel, the broker, cut its forecasts for 1997 and 1998 by £100 million each to £650 million and £800 million respectively. Capel has become bearish of the chemical sector in general and remains a seller of ICI.

Currency factors have also forced Capel to take its red pencil to **Burmah Castrol**, leaving the price 22½p lower at £10.86½. Meanwhile **British Steel** eased 1p to 153p as NatWest Securities, the broker, cut its forecast, taking into account the strong pound.

A number of brokers ganged up on **British Steel**, which is likely to suffer more than most from sterling's strength. Société Generale Strauss Turnbull, NatWest Securities and Merrill Lynch have all downgraded their profit estimates this week. Merrill has more than halved its forecast from £650 million to £280 million.

Merrill Lynch is also worried about the impact currency fluctuations will have on **Redland**, with big interests in Germany. Its shares dropped 8½p to a new low of 335½p, while rival **RMC Group** lost 29p to 939p in sympathy. It now seems likely that Redland will lose its place as a constituent of the top 100 companies when the actuaries next meet.

The consumer spending boom has done little to revive the fortunes of struggling retailer **Sears**, which owns Selfridges and Freemans mail order. The group has confirmed reports of a second profits warning and published its trading statement 24 hours ahead of schedule. Trading in the second half had been mixed while the run-up to Christmas proved disappointing. It warned the market that pre-tax profits for the full year will be significantly below last year's £100.1 million. The shares responded with a fall of 4p to 87½p, stretching the loss during the past two days to 8½p. Talk in the Square Mile claims the latest fall in the share price will annoy institutional investors which may call for Liam Strong, chief executive, to step down.

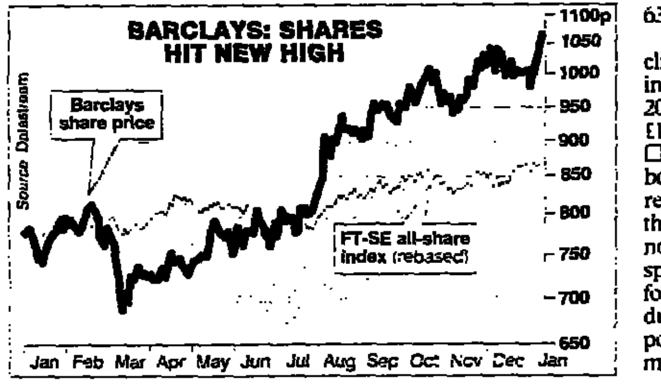
Matthew Clark revived 18½p from its alcopops hangover

The drug companies steadied themselves after earlier nervousness. Currency movements have minimal impact on profits as Sir David Barnes, chairman of **Zeneca**, was quick to point out. Zeneca finished 6½p dearer at £16.37½ as NatWest Securities urged clients to add to their holdings. **Glaxo Wellcome** slipped 3½p to 894p but cheered brokers with the news that its AIDS treatment 141W94, being developed along with Vertex, has entered Phase 2 trials.

Note the strength of Fenchurch Insurance, up 6p at 58p. Turnover was heavy with 1 million shares changing hands in a market where traders normally make a price in 1,000 shares. Talk among the insurance fraternity is that an offer of 100p a share may be forthcoming. That would give Fenchurch a price tag of £37 million.

Associated British Foods, which was downgraded on currency factors by James Capel earlier in the week, slipped a further 1½p to 461p.

A fresh wave of profit warnings also helped to depress sentiment. **Rubicon** tumbled 55p to 112½p after saying that profits in the current year would fall short of expectations due to a slowdown in orders.



BARCLAYS: SHARES HIT NEW HIGH

On a firmer note Barclays Bank continued its record-breaking run with the price recovering an early fall to climb 28½p to a new peak of £10.56½. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, has been buying the stock ahead of next month's dividend reporting season. **National Westminster Bank**, up 15½p at 741p, is also on Laing's buy list.

Matthew Clark, the drinks group, made the most of a comment in yesterday's *Pennington* column suggesting the stock had been oversold, with the price rising 18½p to 277½p. Competition from alcopops cost the group dearly last year and saw the price tumble from a peak of 801p. Figures are due out next week.

P&O, up 13½p at 603p, and **Pearson**, 9p better at 747½p, both feature prominently among Kleinwort Benson's top ten buys for this year.

But **Ladbroke** eased 2p to 230p as ABN Amro Hoare Govett reduced its recommendation from a "buy" to a "hold".

Speculative buying in a thin market lifted **Jardinerie Interiors** 13½p to 136p.

On AIM **Dean Corporation** marked time at 10½p after snapping up a 25.8 per cent stake in Superframe. It paid 20p each for the shares.

AIM-listed **Staffware** plunged 56p to 197½p after warning of a profits shortfall. Despite talk of a promising second half, profits were unlikely to match forecasts.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Prices recovered after a hesitant start and moved through several resistance levels before closing near their best of the day. The best gains were recorded during the afternoon after a positive start to trading by US Treasury bonds.

The March series of the long gilt jumped £$^{17}/_{32}$ to close at £108$^{31}/_{32}$ as the number of contracts completed reached 63,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 climbed £$^{15}/_{32}$ to £101¾, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £$^{3}/_{16}$ better at £102$^{21}/_{16}$.

☐ **NEW YORK**: Bonds rebounded on a wholesale price report, below expectations, that allayed fears that economic growth might soon spell higher inflation. Shares followed. The Dow Jones industrial average was 70.42 points higher at 6,619.90 by midday.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 6619.90 (+70.42)
S&P Composite .... 754.27 (+5.86)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 18075.87 (-606.51)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 13198.11 (-256.82)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index .... 650.08 (-2.26)

Sydney:
AO .... 2423.2 (+8.2)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 2892.63 (-13.71)

Singapore:
Straits .... 2253.73 (+10.47)

Brussels:
General .... 10709.98 (+97.27)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 2349.08 (+17.46)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 850.20 (-5.40)

London:
FT 30 .... 2794.4 (-3.5)
FT 100 .... 4087.0 (-0.5)
FTSE Mid 250 .... 4517.7 (-14.6)
FTSE 350 .... 2034.1 (-1.6)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 .... 1939.82 (+8.27)
FT All-Share .... 2008.15 (-1.29)
FT Non Financials .... 2077.36 (-4.38)
FT Fixed Interest .... 115.32 (-0.21)
FT Govt Secs .... 93.31 (-0.30)
Bargains 38131
SEAQ Volume 758.8m
US$ .... 1.6935 (+0.0054)
German Mark .... 2.6668 (+0.0149)
Exchange Index .... 96.6 (+0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.3685
£:SDR 1.1805
RPI .... 153.9 Nov (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 153.7 Nov (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aquarius	173½		...
BZW Endowment Red	52½	-	½
Cadcentre	278½		...
Colt Telecom (275)	299½	-	1½
Crown Leisure	79½	-	1
Epicore Network	55		...
Fountain Forestry	89½		...
GB Railways	247½	-	5
Hardy Underwrtg	175		...
Highams Systems	160		...
Linden	162½	+	2
Netcall	48½		...
On-Line	72½	-	5
Oxford Biomedica	59½	+	5
Parkwood Holdings	74½		...
Pilat Technologies	59½		...
SDX Business Sys	220	-	½
Sanctuary Music (65)	65½	+	3
Scot Highland Htls	146½	-	1
Sunderland	707½	-	10
Sutton Harbour	130	-	1
Wst Bromwich Alb	£230	+	30
Xenova	225	+	5
Yeoman Group	157½		...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Compel Gp n/p (160)	4½		...
Fisher J n/p (120)	18½	-	6½
Pressac Hldgs n/p	50½	-	2½
Prism Rail n/p (330)	125	-	2
RPC n/p (142)	3		...
Shaftesbury n/p (137)	21		...
Wickes n/p (150)	25		...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Clinton Cards .... 225p (+30p)
Telspec .... 276p (+28½p)
Filtronic Com .... 344p (+19p)
Celltech .... 545p (+27½p)
Scotia .... 721½p (+29p)

FALLS:
Druck .... 239p (-21p)
Bluebird Toys .... 182½p (-10p)
Therp Anti Inc .... 310p (-10p)
BFB Ind .... 375½p (-12p)
Photobition .... 409½p (-13p)
BAT .... 472½p (-13p)
Cadbury-Schw .... 485p (-12p)
Rubicon .... 112½p (-55p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

Steel feels the cold

CURSES at the snow and ice will be loud at ASW's headquarters in Cardiff. The steel company's bosses feel the cold more than most. ASW makes reinforcing bars for the construction industry and every day of hard frost means another day when concrete is not being poured at construction sites across Europe. Cold weather delayed building starts last winter, leaving a backlog of steel stocks, which have been slow to clear.

ASW is in trouble. The company took over a French competitor in 1994 hoping that the French and German building sector would pick up. Instead, it has remained stuck in the doldrums and ASW has been running up losses. In desperation, the company is selling off profitable businesses to reduce gearing, which remains high at 70 per cent: if trading does not live up to expectations, a rescue rights issue could be on the cards. Curiously, the strength of sterling helps ASW because scrap metal, its main raw material, is priced in dollars. However, British Steel is suffering a further bout of blood-letting on the stock market. Early in November, *Tempus* gave warning that a hard currency would lead to trouble; a rough and ready guide suggests a £100 million hit to profits for every ten pfennig rise in the pound. Carmakers are said to be achieving 4 per cent price reductions in long-term steel contracts.

The big worry is that British Steel will not just lose exports but that cheap imports could erode its 60 per cent share of the UK market. British Steel has some £600 million of cash to ride out this storm but with profits being shredded it could be tempted to cut the dividend.

McKechnie

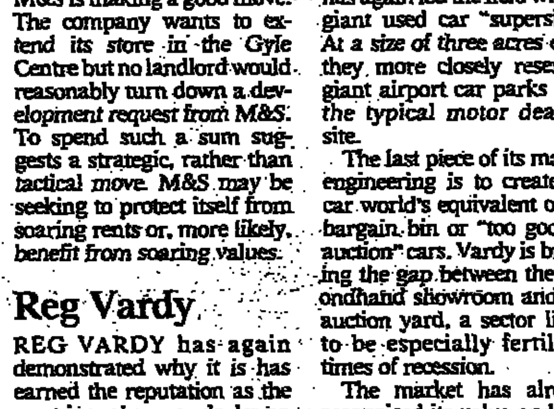
THE official version is that Mike Ost is ending his ten year stint at the helm of McKechnie to seek one last big challenge before he retires. It is not entirely clear why he has to look elsewhere when he is already running a £600 million company. And he has strangely neglected to identify that next challenge before he departs from the McKechnie fold.

Mr Ost would like you to know that the plastic and metal components group is not in trouble, and yesterday reiterated recent comments that McKechnie is poised for "another year of significant progress".

The impression remains that Mr Ost's departure was not entirely unwelcome, and the share price, up 4p to 554½p, makes its own comment. Numerous acquisitions have transformed McKechnie from the archetypal Midlands metal basher into a diversified group that spans car components, mobile phone parts, packaging and materials handling. Yet the ten year share record is creditable rather than spectacular. McKechnie has tracked the FT-SE All share index and has under-performed since January 1988.

The company's recent growth has come almost entirely from acquisitions, while the underlying business has been flat. McKechnie is also weak in continental Europe and the US.

These must be two key issues for the new chief executive to address.



A DECADE OF ACQUISITIONS

M&S

THE shopping centre market was already simmering very nicely until yesterday, when Britain's favourite clothing retailer sharply turned up the heat to boil. Marks & Spencer yesterday threw £122 million on the table to snatch the Gyle Shopping Centre in Edinburgh from under the nose of Universities Superannuation Scheme.

M&S always had a right of first refusal, a fact well understood by USS, which has had its legal costs reimbursed. The retailer is pooh-poohing the notion that this marks a new property strategy, noting that the company already owns most of its stores and one centre in Northern Ireland.

Nevertheless, the price is very high, struck at an initial yield of 4 per cent. Even adjusting for current market rents the yield is only 5.75 per cent. The effect on property companies with major retail assets was immediate with Capital Shopping Centres gaining 5p. Others, such as Chelsfield should also benefit as valuations are reworked. The question is whether M&S is making a good move. The company wants to extend its store in the Gyle Centre but no landlord would reasonably turn down a development request from M&S. To spend such a sum suggests a strategic, rather than tactical move. M&S may be seeking to protect itself from soaring rents or, more likely, benefit from soaring values.

Reg Vardy

REG VARDY has again demonstrated why it is has earned the reputation as the most ingenious car dealer on the market. A series of marketing gimmicks has set it apart from the stagnating car market, helping the company to achieve underlying growth of 18 per cent.

Vardy understands that small is no longer beautiful. It has already concentrated its dealerships into large sites, a move copied by competitors with manufacturers barking at their heels.

At the second-hand level, it has again led the field with its giant used car "supersites". At a size of three acres each, they more closely resemble giant airport car parks than the typical motor dealer's site.

The last piece of its market engineering is to create the car world's equivalent of the bargain bin or "too good to auction" cars. Vardy is bridging the gap between the secondhand showroom and the auction yard, a sector likely to be especially fertile in times of recession.

The market has already recognised its value and at a rating of 15.7 times, its shares themselves are nowhere near the bargain bin. But if you only have one car dealer in your portfolio, Vardy is better positioned than many in this depressed sector.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	[illegible]	May	[illegible]
May	[illegible]	Jul	[illegible]
Jul	[illegible]	Sep	[illegible]
Sep	[illegible]	Dec	[illegible]
Dec	[illegible]		
Mar	[illegible]	Volume	[illegible]

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	[illegible]	Jul	[illegible]
Mar	[illegible]	Sep	[illegible]
May	[illegible]	Jan	[illegible]
Jul	[illegible]	Volume	[illegible]

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters [illegible]

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Scotland	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)
CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brent 15 day (Feb)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brent 15 day (Mar)	[illegible]	[illegible]
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	[illegible]	[illegible]
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	[illegible]	[illegible]

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Gasol	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gasoil EEC	[illegible]	[illegible]
3.5 Fuel Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Naphtha	[illegible]	[illegible]

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

Jan	[illegible]	Apr	[illegible]
Feb	[illegible]	May	[illegible]
Mar	[illegible]	Vol	[illegible]

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	[illegible]	May	[illegible]
Mar	[illegible]	Jun	[illegible]
Apr	[illegible]	Vol	[illegible]

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t) / BARLEY (close £/t) [illegible]

POTATO [illegible]

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k) [illegible]

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt) [illegible]

(Official) (Volume prev day) LONDON METAL EXCHANGE Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lead ($/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tin ($/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nickel ($/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FTSE 100	Mar 97	4065.0	4093.0	4050.0	4086.0	11323
Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 97				4110.0	0
FTSE 250	Mar 97				4496.0	0
Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 97					0
Three Month Sterling	Mar 97	93.37	93.42	93.35	93.40	17052
Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 97	93.08	93.14	93.05	93.12	22735
	Sep 97	92.83	92.90	92.82	92.88	10110
Three Mth Euro Yen	Jun 97				99.41	0
	Sep 97	99.29	99.28	99.28	99.30	4
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 97	96.91	96.91	96.88	96.89	62296
Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 97	96.86	96.88	96.84	96.87	49639
Long Gilt	Mar 97	108-10	109-03	108-05	109-31	61858
Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 97				109-11	0
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 97	124.88	124.92	124.78	124.98	1494
	Jun 97				123.45	0
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 97	99.73	100.46	99.60	100.27	213180
Previous open interest: 215113	Jun 97	99.00	99.37	98.71	99.26	3118
Three month ECU	Mar 97	95.95	95.96	95.94	95.95	896
Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 97	95.97	95.97	95.96	95.97	671
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 97	98.19	98.21	98.12	98.16	8009
Previous open interest: 77185	Jun 97	98.09	98.12	98.06	98.09	5241
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 97	127.94	128.84	127.95	128.73	56311
Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 97	127.79	128.38	127.78	128.36	610

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5½ Low 5 Week fixed: 5½
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]. Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 5½ close 5½

Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.39	n/a	5.44	5.65	5.93
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3½-3	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $353.85-354.10 Close $355.50-355.80 High: $357.10-357.60
Low: $353.25-353.70 AM: $354.50 PM: $356.50

Krugerrand: $354.75-357.75 (£209.25-211.25)

Platinum: $361.25 (£213.20) Silver: $4.70 (£2.76) Palladium: $122.25 (£72.15)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for January 9	Range	Close	1 month	3 months
Amsterdam	2.9908-3.0042	2.9953-2.9992	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	54.983-55.190	54.997-55.071	17-12pr	50-43pr
Copenhagen	10.152-10.175	10.167-10.175	[illegible]ds	[illegible]pr
Dublin	1.0179-1.0210	1.0179-1.0196	5-1pr	14-8pr
Frankfurt	2.6641-2.6765	2.6682-2.6705	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	266.27-267.96	266.90-267.18	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Madrid	223.99-225.12	224.30-224.62	2-8ds	11-30ds
Milan	2607.0-2611.2	2607.9-2610.5	25-41ds	44-67ds
Montreal	2.2846-2.2943	2.2876-2.2894	0.64-0.59pr	1.21-1.12pr
New York	1.6814-1.6944	1.6938-1.6945	0.12-0.10pr	0.385-0.355pr
Oslo	10.907-10.996	10.914-10.922	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	9.0076-9.0170	9.0083-9.0134	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Stockholm	11.711-11.803	11.732-11.742	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	196.35-196.81	196.59-196.81	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	18.731-18.836	18.771-18.789	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.3072-2.3159	2.3122-2.3149	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel
Premium = pr. Discount = ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia 1.2832-1.2840
Austria 11.06-11.07
Belgium (Com) 32.43-32.44
Canada 1.3510-1.3515
Denmark 5.9935-5.9955
France 5.3117-5.3127
Germany 1.5730-1.5740
Hong Kong 7.7364-7.7369
Ireland 1.6600-1.6610
Italy 1539.0-1540.5
Japan 116.05-116.15
Malaysia 2.4818-2.4828
Netherlands 1.7657-1.7663
Norway 6.4352-6.4372
Portugal 157.33-157.43
Singapore 1.4050-1.4055
Spain 132.28-132.31
Sweden 6.9149-6.9219
Switzerland 1.3630-1.3640

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso* 1.6920-1.6947
Australia dollar 2.1716-2.1742
Bahrain dinar 0.6320-0.6440
Brazil real* 1.7674-1.7719
China yuan 13.874-14.174
Cyprus pound 0.7945-0.8045
Finland markka 7.9125-8.0285
Greece drachma 414.5-421.5
Hong Kong dollar 13.0823-13.0908
India rupee 60.20-61.16
Indonesia rupiah 3965.0-4033.6
Kuwait dinar KD 0.5025-0.5125
Malaysia ringgit 4.1950-4.1991
New Zealand dollar 2.3910-2.3948
Pakistan rupee .... 67.35 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal 6.1000-6.2240
Singapore dollar 2.3754-2.3777
S Africa rand (com) 7.8800-7.9820
U A E dirham 6.1525-6.2765
Barclays Bank GTS * *Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	491	Lloyds TSB	8,100
ASDA Gp	13,900	LucasVarity	3,100
Abbey Ntl	3,100	Marks Spr	2,200
Allied Dom	1,800	Mercury Asset	764
Argos	274	NatWst Bk	6,900
AB Foods	615	Nat Grid	4,000
BAA	4,300	Nat Power	2,800
BAT Inds	6,000	Next	1,700
BOC	595	Orange	2,600
BP	3,800	P & O	3,300
BSkyB	1,700	Pearson	1,300
BTR	8,500	PowerGen	426
BT	9,100	Prudential	2,000
Bk of Scot	1,200	RMC	636
Barclays	3,900	RTZ	2,700
Bass	832	Railtrack	1,300
Blue Circle	2,100	Rank Group	1,400
Boots	3,600	Reckitt Col	522
BAe	1,100	Redland	3,200
BA	1,800	Reed Intl	1,900
Brit Gas	6,200	Rentokil Inl	1,500
Brit Steel	11,100	Reuters	11,200
Burmah Cstl	1,400	Rolls Royce	2,500
Burton	2,600	Royal & Sun	408
Cable Wire	3,300	Royal Bk Sct	1,400
Cadbury	2,200	Safeway	4,100
Carlton Cms	2,300	Sainsbury	3,600
Cm Union	736	Schroders	359
Dixons	6,000	Scot & New	1,000
EMI	286	Scot Power	1,600
Enterpr Oil	1,900	Svrn Trent	389
GKN	305	Shell Trans	3,500
GRE	1,100	Siebe	877
GUS	2,700	SmKl Bch	4,100
Gen Acc	3,000	Smith Nph	1,800
Gen Elec	5,200	Smiths Inds	232
Glaxo Well	5,200	Std Chartd	1,200
Granada	1,900	TI Gp	543
Grand Met	2,500	Tate & Lyle	2,500
Guinness	1,500	Tesco	9,500
HSBC	3,000	Thames W	652
Hanson	9,600	Tomkins	17,200
Hays	471	Unilever	1,900
ICI	2,900	Utd Utilities	3,800
Imp Tob	4,000	Utd News	1,500
Kingfisher	3,600	Vodafone	5,600
LASMO	920	Whitbread	2,400
Ladbroke	13,200	Wlms Hld	619
Land Secs	1,000	Wolseley	491
Legal & Gn	3,900	Zeneca	700

WALL STREET

	Jan 9 midday	Jan 8 close
AMP Inc	41	39
AMR Corp	87	[illegible]
ASA	[illegible]	[illegible]
AT & T	[illegible]	[illegible]
Abbott Labs	52	[illegible]
Advanced Micro	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aetna Life	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ahmanson (HF)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Air Prod & Chem	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Jan 9 midday	Jan 8 close
Eastman Kodak	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eaton Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Edison Int	[illegible]	[illegible]
Elect Data Sys	[illegible]	[illegible]
Emerson Elec	[illegible]	[illegible]
Engelhard Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Enron Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Entergy	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Jan 9 midday	Jan 8 close
Oryx Energy Co	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overseas Ship	17	[illegible]
Owens Corning	46	45
PHH Corp	[illegible]	44
PPG Industries	53	[illegible]
PNC Bank	[illegible]	38
PPAL Res	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paccar Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Ronson line on Guys and Dolls

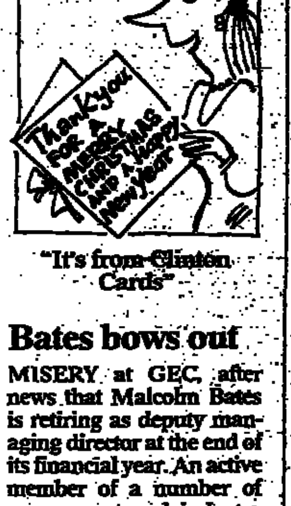
GERALD RONSON at a production of *Guys and Dolls*, surely not? The flamboyant tycoon, jailed for his part in the Guinness affair, was this week at Richard Eyre's production at the National Theatre.

An urban tale of gangsters shown the path of righteousness by an all-singing gang of missionaries, it's hard to imagine what the chief executive of Heron International made of the 1960s musical. The myth of resilience and survival can only have appealled to the tough-talking father of four who once had a sign on his desk "It can be done".

Jumped the gun

RED-FACED Chase de Vere Investments was forced to apologise yesterday for being too hasty. Earlier this week it sent out a rabble-rousing release extolling the virtues of the new instant-access investment account that it was launching with Flemings Save & Prosper, promising to match or exceed the average rates paid by ten of the UK's leading building societies. Only 24-hours later, the follow-up fax arrived — the launch has been delayed.

A MEMORABLE malapropism on the screens yesterday, after Selfcare's proposal to replace the board of Enviromed. The announcement quoted Ron Zwanziger, chief executive of the company specialising in diagnostic products: "Selfcare will have two votes on a board comprised seven dictators, hardly a backdoor takeover."


Thank you for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

"It's from Clinton Cards"

Bates bows out

MISERY at GEC, after news that Malcolm Bates is retiring as deputy managing director at the end of its financial year. An active member of a number of government and industry think-tanks, the 62-year-old has been appointed non-executive chairman of Premier Parnell, the electronics group. According to Sara Morrison, a director at GEC: "Malcolm will be greatly missed — he's the only person in the company who can write legibly. We'll never understand one another again."

Bigger splash

MIKE HOFFMAN, axed from Thames Water last year, is gradually going back to his engineering roots. A Rolls-Royce apprenticeship was a bit over the top as qualification to be a non-exec at Hornby, the model train king, but may help him to chair the management buyout team for the Government's Building Research Centre. Along with a board seat at PowerGen and chairing the council of Brunel University, this would be enough for most. But do not write the energetic Hoffman off from another chief executive post.

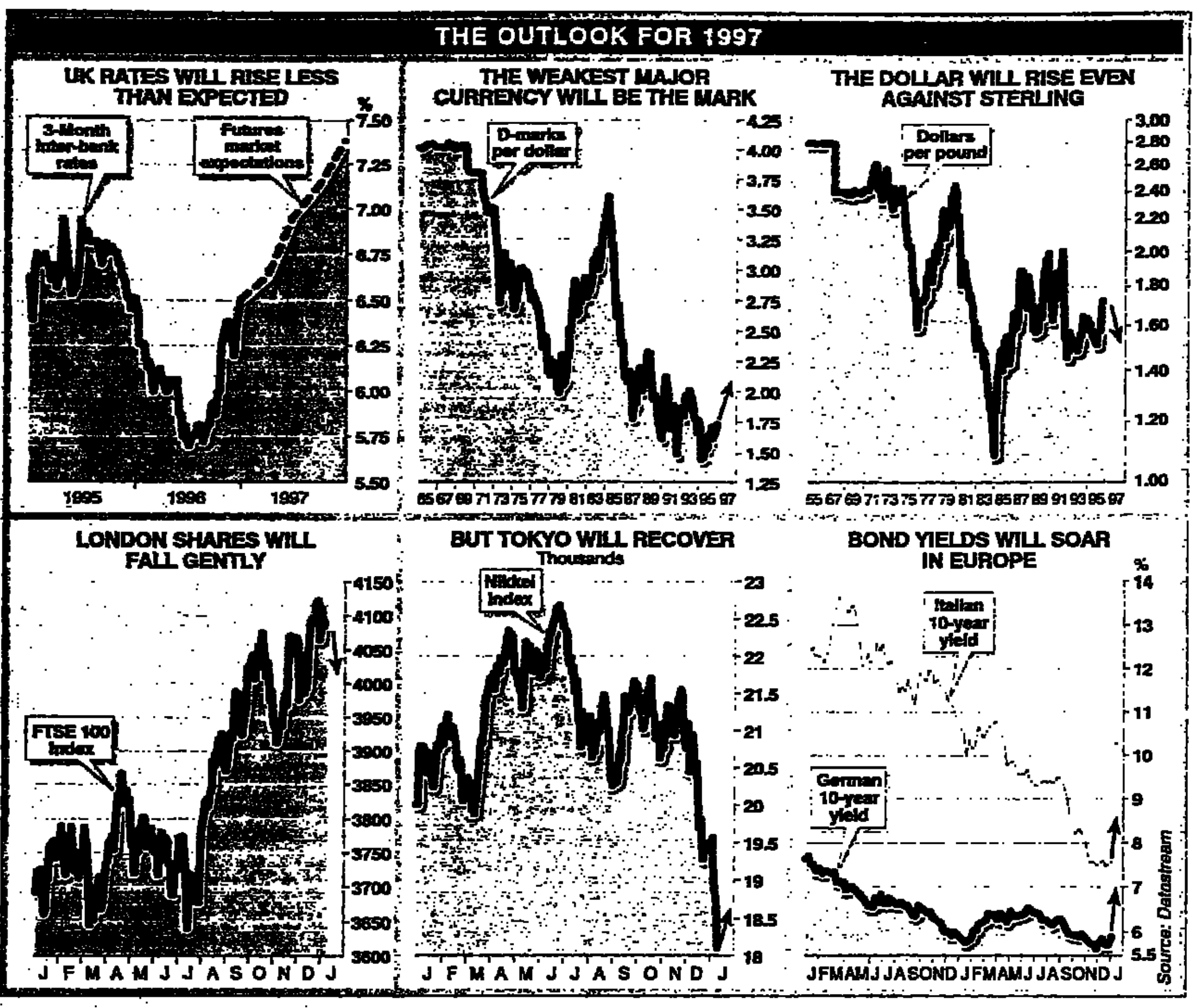
A FOLLOW-UP on my story that City Index was betting on the number of days that Richard Branson stayed in the air. The sports and financial bookmaker, which promised to donate any profits to charity, lost £800 in total.

MORAG PRESTON

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Which economic trend will be your friend this year?

Forecasts lose their value when markets start to change direction



Happy New Year. It certainly has been — so far — for anyone who stuck to the main financial trends of 1996 which I highlighted in the last *Economic View* before Christmas.

The dollar and the pound, both widely despised a year ago by investors, have continued rising sharply. Wall Street, which was supposedly overvalued a year ago, hit a new record on Tuesday while Tokyo — the market most favoured last January by professional investors — has suffered a further 10 per cent collapse in the past four days. Even Japanese and European bonds, two of the errant markets of 1996, which continually defied economic logic, have started behaving in a more sensible manner, falling sharply in the three weeks since Christmas. This bear market in bonds is a trend I certainly expect to see continuing in 1997 — especially in Japan, which is in the grip of another classic Tokyo bubble, and in Europe, where investors have forgotten about the hazards of EMU both to the countries that participate and to those, such as Italy, that are left outside.

In Britain, too, the favourable trends of 1996 are going strong.

The question *now* is which of these trends we expect to continue and which will go into reverse. "The trend is your friend" is a motto used by many financial traders. But nothing is more dangerous than sticking to a trend which is about to turn. This is as true of the supposedly scientific business of macroeconomic forecasting as of the very unscientific financial soothsaying I like to indulge in at this time of year.

In analysing the behaviour of an economy in a period of more or less steady growth, nothing can beat a large and well-specified macroeconomic model of the kind used by governments, big banks and international institutions like the IMF and the OECD. But at times when the trend is breaking — when an economy is about to tumble into recession or take off on a sudden boom — the big conventional models are worse than useless.

The key question in assessing this year's economic prospects, therefore, is which economies are following and which are breaking trends. For countries on a path of steady growth, there is not much hope of second-guessing the Government and OECD forecasts. But for countries moving into or out of recessions, official forecasts are not worth the paper they are printed on.

In this second category, I would put Italy and Japan. Italy is heading for recession and financial crisis, resulting from an impossibly restrictive fiscal policy combined with a sharp rise in the exchange rate. Japan could also fall back into recession if the stock market meltdown in Tokyo continues and the Ministry of Finance goes through with its *hara kiri* policy of raising taxes while slashing public works. I suspect, however, that fears of financial collapse will make the MoF bureaucrats reverse their fiscal plans. If so, Japan could enjoy a big revival in confidence and much stronger growth than the 1.6 per cent predicted by the OECD.

In the first group of countries, where official forecasts have to be treated with respect, I would include America, Britain, Canada, much of the developing world and — more controversially — both Germany and France, which will benefit from a dramatic weakening of the euro. If pressed, I would guess that America will grow a little more strongly than the OECD's 2.2 per cent forecast, which is largely conditioned by outdated assumptions about the "natural" rate of unemployment and America's maximum rate of non-inflationary growth.

Britain's growth rate, by contrast, may end a shade below the OECD's 3.3 per cent figure. I still believe that Britain will be the fastest-growing G7 country, but there will be no boom, partly because of last year's strength of sterling, but also because of a tighter than expected fiscal policy.

I described on this page on Tuesday some of the reasons why fiscal policy could be tightened after the election. The main one is simply that an increase in taxes looks much more feasible politically than I imagined a few months ago. The Treasury, the Bank and the Labour Party are waking up to the availability of large revenue-raising measures outside the forbidden territories of income tax and VAT. As Margaret Thatcher realised in 1979, there is only one good time for a major shift in the tax burden: the Budget immediately after a big election victory. The most plausible reform would be the abolition of the dividend-imputation system which subsidises UK pension funds. Such a move would have big financial implications. British shares would fall, although less sharply than the pension fund Jeremiahs predict.

The ultimate burden of dividend taxes falls on the workers and employers — and workers, in particular, will increase their stock market savings to make up for anticipated pensions shortfalls. The outlook for interest rates would be improved. The futures market is forecasting a rise in three-month interest rates from 6.5 per cent today to 7.4 per cent in December. I suspect that a modest fiscal tightening would be enough to keep base rates at 7 per cent or below. This would take much of the pressure off the pound. Despite this, the pound's uptrend should continue against the mark, which is set to become the world's weakest major currency. Against the dollar, however, sterling's uptrend may already have run out of steam at $1.70. If the dollar rises eventually to at least DM1.70, sterling will have to fall quite sharply against the greenback to avoid moving back into the old ERM zone above DM2.80.

The strong dollar is one trend that has now been running for almost two years and shows no sign of turning. I argued back in December 1994 that the dollar's 30-year downtrend against the mark and yen was about to turn. I now believe more firmly than ever that what started two years ago was a long-term secular trend and not just a cyclical blip in a continuing bear market. So far, the dollar's biggest move has been against the yen. But with the Japanese economy now poised for recovery (barring a collective outbreak of insanity at the Ministry of Finance), the yen should stabilise somewhere in the Y120 to Y130 range. Germany, by contrast, is now structurally the weakest economy in Europe. Its only hope of restoring international competitiveness is to abandon the "hard" mark and welcome a currency designed to depreciate much further against the dollar, the yen and even the friendless Swiss franc. The weak mark, in other words, seems to be another case where "the trend is your friend" until further notice.

Now let me turn to some big financial trends that may finally be exhausted. The most important is the huge run-up in share prices around the world. The widely feared crash on Wall Street remains unlikely, since American shares are only modestly overvalued even at 6,600 on the Dow. However, any further big gains ought to wait for profits growth to catch up with expectations. The most benign (and probable) outcome would be a long period of directionless trading which would frustrate both the bulls and the bears. However, a more dramatic alternative is possible — another big gain of 20 per cent or so followed by an equally sharp fall. Either way, shares in most leading markets are likely to end 1997 roughly where they started. The main exception (apart from London, which may be affected by tax and political considerations) could be Tokyo.

Most of last year was trendless for investors in Japan, rather like 1997 could be in other markets. But this year Tokyo shares are likely to fall sharply or to rise sharply — or quite possibly to do both. Sentiment about Japan is now at a bearish extreme. If the economy does slow, the pessimism will be fully justified, parts of the financial system will collapse and the Nikkei could quickly crash back to its 1995 lows. But if the bureaucrats relent and the economic recovery accelerates, Tokyo share prices could easily rise 20 or 30 per cent. In Japan, at least, the trend is certainly not your friend at the moment.

Returns to senders in Nigeria

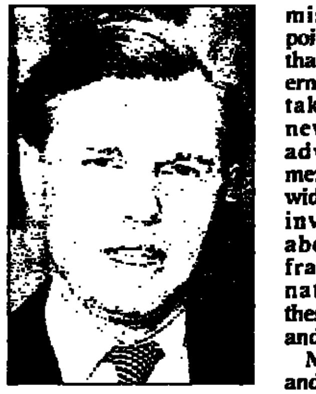
Beware the poison penned by fraudsters, writes **Robert Miller**

HUNDREDS of wealthy Californian investors have *lost millions of dollars to* fraudsters who are using London as an international base from which to operate their scams.

Their plight has led senior fraud squad detectives in Britain to warn investors to be on the alert for a fresh wave of illegal schemes operating out of London, many of which are connected with Nigeria. These new scams are more sophisticated versions of the Nigerian letters that have flooded the UK in recent years. One was even sent to George Staple, director of the Serious Fraud Office.

Most Nigerian letters offer millions of dollars to UK and overseas investors who help bogus Nigerian officials smuggle money, which has allegedly been siphoned from Government contracts, out of the country.

Detective Inspector David Crinnion, of the Metropolitan Police Company Fraud Squad, said: "World-wide, the losses from these scams run into billions of dollars every year. Investors in over 51 countries, including Britain, have received Nigerian letters. In spite of our repeated warnings not to touch them people still prove all too gullible."



Staple: received letter

Mr Crinnion, who last year broke-up a Nigerian scam led by fugitive "Chief" Frank Okosa, which resulted in a former Barclays Bank manager being jailed for five years, added: "Translated, these letters have the same theme — 'Dear Sir or Madam, I am a thief who has stolen a lot of money from the Government and I would like your help to get it out of Nigeria'. These monies do not exist and never have."

Inquiries by *The Times* have established that two groups of US investors, attracted by the sound regulatory reputation of the City of London, were induced to part with more than $3 million. They handed over the money to a Nigerian group — CBN International Clearing House — headed by a Dr TD Spiff that operates out of an accomodation address in the *the West End of London*.

The first group, which put up around $2 million, used the international electronic banking system to wire money through the Holborn branch of a British bank in London for onward tranmission to Nigeria. The investors were told that the funds would back a Nigerian oil field construction being carried out by a Costa Rican company.

Chris Pedras, one of the US investors, said: "We have been told by the Nigerian Petroleum Corporation office in London that these contracts never existed." Mr Pedras alleges that Nigerian Government officials are part of the scam and receive a pay-off in return for the use of genuine seals.

The Nigerian High Commission in London yesterday categorically denied that the fraudsters were Nigerian Government officials. The Commission pointed out that its Government has taken out newspaper advertisements worldwide to warn investors about the fraudulent nature of these letters and deals.

Mr Pedras and Charles Clark, a representative of the second group of US investors, which lost $1 million and was also told that the money was being invested in an over-budgeted oil field construction project, last month visited London to trace the missing funds. They tried unsuccessfully to lure "Dr Spiff" into a face-to-face meeting using further funds as a bait.

Tackling fraud, as well as money-laundering, is an international issue, often spanning five or six jurisdictions. The emphasis is on much closer co-operation between British agencies and their overseas counterparts. In one such move currently before the UK courts, a state agency in Florida has lodged a request with the UK authorities for the extradition of three Nigerian citizens, operating out of London, back to the sunshine state.

A happy high street rip-off?

From Mr D. Alistair Hibbert

Sir, You quote John O'Sullivan of NatWest Markets (*The Times*, December 19, "Good tidings for Christmas sales") as saying: "This is clear evidence that the momentum behind high street spending is eroding consumers' sensitivity to price increases."

In simple English does this mean "The public are happy to be ripped off"?

Yours faithfully,

D. ALISTAIR HIBBERT,
5 Fox's Covert,
Fenny Drayton,
Leicestershire.

Chairman's pay

From the Company Secretary, Direct Line Group

Sir, Your newspaper published an article on December 31, 1996, which, due to a communication error, overstated the 1996 remuneration of Peter Wood, chairman of Direct Line Insurance. Mr Wood's total remuneration for that year, for his services to Direct Line and its parent company, The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, was £429,414. He received no salary from the Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ATKINSON,
Company Secretary,
Direct Line Group,
Direct Line House,
3 Edridge Road,
Croydon, Surrey.

Insurance companies contribute to ABI annual survey of fraud

From the Deputy Director-General of the Association of British Insurers

Sir, Mr E. J. Smith asked (Business Letters, January 7) how the extent of fraudulent insurance claims is assessed. The Association of British Insurers (ABI) conducts an annual survey of insurance companies. They are asked for their individual assessment of the level of insurance fraud of different types for various classes of insurance, and the answers are collated to produce an overall result.

The total cost has fallen from a starting figure of £800 million in 1993, through £600 million in 1994, £585 million in 1995 to £560 million in 1996.

This reduction has been achieved in two ways. First, the insurance companies have made strenuous efforts to improve the skill of their staff to spot potentially fraudulent claims and then to check them out thoroughly but fairly.

Secondly, the ABI's Crime and Fraud Prevention Bureau (established 18 months ago) has provided a forum for insurance companies to share knowledge, particularly of new forms of fraud, and so improve the industry's anti-fraud capability and performance. A series of successful initiatives have been undertaken and publicised.

We are not complacent about insurance fraud and we are determined to continue to reduce its impact on the vast majority of insurance policyholders, who are honest.

Yours faithfully,
TONY BAKER,
Deputy Director-General,
ABI,
51 Gresham Street, EC2.

Computer errors can be corrected

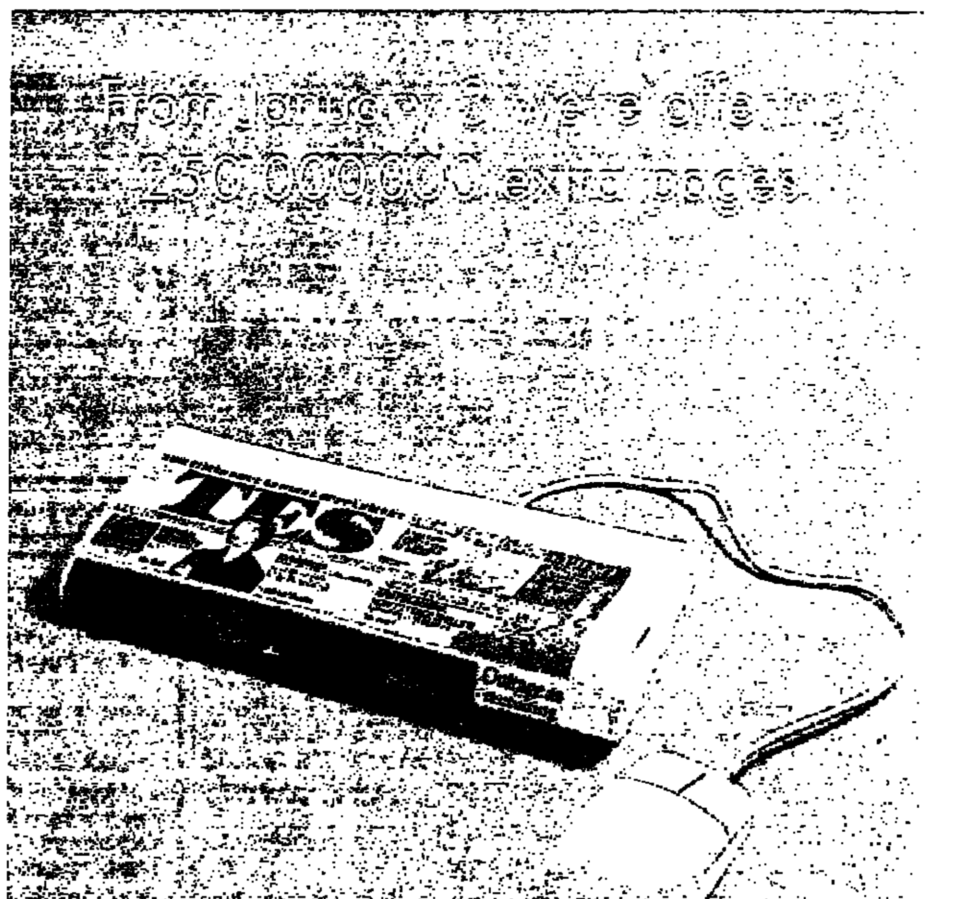
From Mr Nigel L. Denton

Sir, Members of the Halifax Building Society (report, January 2) who feel that they will miss out on their share bonuses because of incorrectly entered computer records have recourse through the 1984 Data Protection Act.

This places the onus on the owner of computer data to hold only accurate information and to keep it up to date. Under Section 21 of the Act the Society must provide a printout of the personal data held on any member who pays the appropriate fee. This information must be corrected if shown to be in error.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL L. DENTON,
12 Maria Court,
Southcote Road,
Reading,
Berkshire.

Letters to the Business section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.


From January 3 we're offering 250,000,000 extra pages

We've taken the world's greatest education resource, re-ordered it, structured it, added a few thousand pages of our own, and from January 3 we're offering it to teachers - free.

The new *TES* Internet Service has been designed entirely around your needs. So you won't just find an on-line copy of *The TES*. There are also thousands of links to other educational sites - from SCAA to the British Museum, NASA to the Louvre. There are sections on Scotland, further education and curriculum pages.

Whoever and whatever you're teaching, the new *TES* Internet Service is indispensable. It couldn't be simpler - **http://www.tes.co.uk**

TES
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Nikkei dives amid fears about health of Japanese economy

By Oliver August

DEEPENING gloom about the Japanese economy is engulfing the Tokyo stock market. Yesterday's share price plunge sent the Nikkei market average down 3.25 per cent to its lowest close in more than a year.

The nosedive, the latest in a series of steep stock market tumbles, was driven by fierce selling of Japanese banking shares coupled with rounds of futures-linked selling, brokers said.

The Nikkei ended the day 606.51 points lower at 18,073.87. The index has lost almost 1,300 points in the first four trading days of 1997. The yen also stumbled at the start of the year, briefly touching a nearly four-year low of Y117 to the dollar on Monday.

The gloom descended last month when the Japanese Government unveiled plans to raise taxes to tackle budget deficit problems, even at the risk of squeezing the country's still tentative economic recovery. The markets are deeply sceptical about the ability of Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, to help to sustain economic growth while carrying out much needed structural reforms. Haruyoshi Mabuchi, chief strategist at Nikko Securities, said: "The Government has not felt it urgent to hammer out a new plan just by the Nikkei 225's break through 19,000. It will be necessary for it to hit around 18,000 to prompt the Government to change its policy."

Economists will focus on the details of Mr Hashimoto's policy speech before parliament on January 20, but traders said that expectations were already low.

Mr Mabuchi said: "There is a possibility that the Government will not do anything and let financial firms close their books for the fiscal year in the red. Then the Nikkei may dive to around 17,000." Yasunari Ueno, chief economist at Fuji Securities, said that few options were left for the Government. "It would be difficult for the Government to propose something effective on January 20," he said.

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, the Finance Minister, has been trying to pull private investors into the fight for recovery. He said that big firms must take the lead in boosting the economy and not rely too much on the Government.

The slumping stock market has renewed fears of a "triple bear" scenario in which Japan's currency, shares and bond prices all collapse at once. But traders think that a "double bear" scenario of a free-falling yen and share prices is a greater possibility.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is in Tokyo to meet business leaders and government officials, yesterday urged Japan to forge ahead with economic reforms that he said Britain had found could hurt at first but ultimately yielded big rewards.

He added: "We did go through a pain barrier in a way, but the pain was not that bad. And the overall benefits to society as a whole are evident and are irreversible."

OFT under attack over report into BA and American

By Jon Ashworth

BRITISH AIRWAYS and American Airlines will have to make further substantial concessions in order for their alliance to proceed, opponents stated yesterday.

Two rival carriers, United and Continental, said that draft conditions from the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) came nowhere near addressing their concerns. Continental said that the draft OFT report was a "disgrace" that could only have been influenced by pressure from Westminster. United called for measures to ensure that competition was not stifled.

Airlines were given until January 10 to respond to the OFT proposals. Last month, the OFT said that BA and American would have to give up 168 take-off and landing slots at Heathrow — representing 84 flights — if they were to proceed with their alliance. It additionally called for wider access to their frequent flyer programmes.

Continental, the fifth largest US carrier, was damning in its condemnation of the OFT proposals. Barry Simon, senior vice-president, international, said: "There is no intelligent person who could have come up with this report. It must have been dictated by a political person."

Mr Simon said that business air fares between the UK and America could rise 50 per cent within two years if the deal went through without further conditions being imposed. BA/American would speak for 60 per cent of seats between the UK and America and nearly 70 per cent of seats between London and New York. Mr Simon said: "BA will have eliminated its major competition. Consumers will be much more at its mercy."

United, the world's largest carrier, said that measures were needed to ensure the proposed alliance did not harm consumers and stifle competition. These included slot divestiture, a commitment not to penalise other airlines by asking them to pay for slots, and more equal access to airport facilities.

Cyril Murphy, United's vice-president, international affairs, said: "It is absolutely critical that any undertakings on British Airways and American truly correspond to the actual loss of competition that will result from their proposed alliance. So far, the undertakings put forward provide neither the incentive nor the physical means for other airlines to offer a competitive counter-balance to BA and American."

Continental said that it alone would need 140 slots just to meet its primary goals. It would seek to compete on the London to New York run — "the biggest market in the world" — by operating daily services to Newark, New Jersey. It would additionally seek to offset BA/American's total dominance of the London to Dallas route by operating parallel services out of Houston, its domestic hub.

Construction slump keeps ASW in cold

By Oliver August

ASW HOLDINGS, the steel and building materials company, has yet to escape the slump in the construction sector. The company said yesterday it had suffered further losses since June 1996, despite an increase in UK sales volumes.

ASW said: "The directors expect that trading would improve in 1997 over 1996, although demand in the short term will be affected by weather conditions in the winter months."

Margins in the UK and continental Europe improved in the second half of 1996 compared with the first half. But financial problems have not abated. The group's loan burden has forced it to sell various assets, including Allied Metals, over the past few months.

ASW said certain bank facilities had been revised, although this is subject to completion of the Allied Metals sale, which is worth £33 million.

In the steel sector, ASW said it benefited from the lower price of scrap, a major input cost in the UK and continental Europe. Scrap prices decreased by 15-20 per cent in the second half of 1996. Steel stocks at downstream customers are also believed to have come down to normal levels.

Shares of ASW were unchanged at 33p yesterday, valuing the business at £27 million.

Last year the shares traded at a high of 95p before fears about a decline in steel prices raised concern about trading. In 1995 ASW earned pre-tax profits of £13.8 million on turnover of £641.9 million.

Tempus, page 28

Longer-term prospects remain good at Rubicon, according to Tim Wightman, left, and Nino Allenza, finance director

Warning takes 30% off Rubicon

By Martin Barrow

RUBICON GROUP lost almost a third of its stock market value yesterday after the specialist engineer warned investors that profits would be "substantially below market expectations" in the current year.

Rubicon shares fell 102½p from 167½p in quick response before settling at 117½p, representing a fall of 30 per cent, and reducing the company's capitalisation to £103 million from £146.8 million. The profit warning was a nasty surprise for analysts who upgraded profit forecasts as recently as November after an upbeat trading statement at the company's annual meeting.

The company, which earned pre-tax profits of £10.88 million in the last full financial year, said a slowdown in orders was evident in the second half of the current year, reflecting a marked deterioration in trading in two of its divisions.

The metal fabrications division had suffered because the pattern of trading in UK personal computer manufacturing customers had failed to show its traditional upturn in December. The board now took a more pessimistic view of trading in the first quarter of 1997. Weak demand for aluminium castings from the European automotive industry had adversely affected the specialist castings division and order schedules are now expected to be lower in 1997.

Results for the six months to November 30, due January 29, will be in line with market expectations after charging £1.2 million of rationalisation costs. In an effort to cut costs the company envisages employee reductions of up to 20 per cent in some divisions.

The company, whose chief executive is Tim Wightman, said that despite the setback cashflow remains strong. The board was "confident of the inherent strengths of all the group's divisions" and that prospects for the following financial year remained good.

Rubicon would continue with its progressive dividend policy, the company said.

Cash offer made for Scott Pickford

By Fraser Nelson

CORE LABORATORIES, the American oil drilling consultancy, has tabled a firm cash offer for Scott Pickford at 53p per share, valuing the geological consultancy, which is listed on the Alternative Investment Market, at £8.27 million.

The move prompted Aerodata, the Australian geological consultancy, also vying to make a bid, to lift its negotiating price to 53p per share, although it stopped short of making a formal offer.

Aerodata stands to gain 19 per cent of Scott Pickford under a share swap with the company secured by Don Scott, its founder and chairman. However, Mr Scott is opposed by a rival faction within the board that last month succeeded in gaining control of the company.

Scott Pickford's shares closed ½p up yesterday, at 52p.

The share swap was sanctioned last month after Gabriel Simonian, who owns 3 per cent of the company, parted ranks with the rebels to create a 3-3 split on the board.

Mr. Scott, Tony Woodliffe and Mr Simonian are supporting Aerodata's bid, giving it 33 per cent of the voting shares.

The rival faction, comprising Ralph Brown, John Turner and Alan Manning, supports Core Laboratories and controls 44 per cent of the vote.

However, after a board meeting last night, Mr Scott said the divisions were close to breaking down, and that the share swap was being suspended. The board would be likely to recommend Aerodata's bid, he said, if it offered more than 53p per share.

All three companies gather and process information about rocks for oil companies. Scott Pickford gathers information from the land, while Aerodata does so from aircraft and Core Laboratories specialises in processing the results.

Core Laboratories, which is listed on the Nasdaq exchange, is by far the largest of the three, with a market value of £115 million.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

No 006657 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF TLG PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 18 December 1996 confirming the reduction of the share premium account of the above named Company from £10,359,040.29 to £5,859,040.29 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 3rd January 1997

DATED this 10th day of January 1997

Halliwell Landau
St James's Court
Brown Street
Manchester
M2 2JF
Tel 0161 835 3003
Fax 0161 835 2994
DX MDX 14317
Solicitors for the above-named Company

NOTICE OF A MEETING OF CREDITORS
EUROPEAN TRAVEL HOUSE LIMITED
Company No 2588136
Principal place of business: Ryedale Building, Piccadilly, York.

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named company will be held at The Hilton Hotel, Outwood Lane, Manchester Airport, M90 4WT on 17th January 1997 at 10.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act, viz (a) to have laid before it a statement as to the affairs of the company; (b) to nominate one or more insolvency practitioners as liquidators; and (c), if thought fit, to appoint a liquidation committee, (d) and to pass any other resolution necessary.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at Cork Gully, Benson House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JP between 10 am and 5 pm on the two business days prior to the meeting.

Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must (unless they are individual creditors attending in person) lodge their proxies at Cork Gully, Benson House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JP no later than 12 noon on 16th January 1997. Please note that the original proxy signed by or on behalf of the creditor must be lodged at the address mentioned. Unless there are exceptional circumstances creditors will not be entitled to vote unless their proofs have been lodged and admitted for voting purposes. While proofs may be lodged at any time before voting commences, creditors intending to vote at the meeting are requested to send them with their proxies.

Unless they surrender their security, secured creditors must give particulars of their security and its value if they wish to vote at the meeting.

By Order of The Board,
DJ Miller, Director.
Dated 8th January 1997

NOTICE OF A MEETING OF CREDITORS
RAINBOW YORK LIMITED
Company No: 1547508
Principal place of business. Ryedale Building, Piccadilly, York

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named company will be held at The Hilton Hotel, Outwood Lane, Manchester Airport, M90 4WT on 17th January 1997 at 11.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act, viz (a) to have laid before it a statement as to the affairs of the company; (b) to nominate one or more insolvency practitioners as liquidators; and (c) if thought fit, to appoint a liquidation committee, (d) and to pass any other resolution necessary.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at Cork Gully, Benson House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JP between 10 am and 5 pm on the two business days prior to the meeting.

Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must (unless they are individual creditors attending in person) lodge their proxies at Cork Gully, Benson House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JP no later than 12 noon on 16th January 1997. Please note that the original proxy signed by or on behalf of the creditor must be lodged at the address mentioned. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, creditors will not be entitled to vote unless their proofs have been lodged and admitted for voting purposes. While proofs may be lodged at any time before voting commences, creditors intending to vote at the meeting are requested to send them with their proxies.

Unless they surrender their security, secured creditors must give particulars of their security and its value if they wish to vote at the meeting.

By Order of The Board,
DJ Miller, Director.
Dated: 8th January 1997

WPFC LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER 2744314
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

On 20 December 1996 the above named company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Anthony Victor Lomas of Price Waterhouse was appointed by the shareholders.

The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 31 January 1997 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.

The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.

Date 20 December 1996
AV Lomas
Liquidator
Crispin Hayhoe
Chartered Accountant

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 46 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
LBC Group Ltd
REGISTERED NUMBER: 2761499
FORMER COMPANY NAMES: Mawlaw 184 Ltd
TRADING NAMES: None

Notice is hereby given that on 6 January 1997, Murdoch Lang McKillop and Martin Fishman of 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers of the above company by Bank of Scotland under the powers conferred in a debenture dated 28 January 1993 containing fixed and floating charges over the assets and undertakings of the company.

Dated this 7th day of January 1997
MURDOCH LANG McKILLOP & MARTIN FISHMAN
Joint Administrative Receivers

The Insolvency Act 1986
P.E. MARCHANT LIMITED
TRADING NAME "MARCHANT CONSTRUCTION"

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 22nd January 1997 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors with such information as they may require.

Dated this 8th day of January 1997
By Order of the Board
P.E. MARCHANT, Director

The Insolvency Act 1986
SEAKALE LIMITED
Trading Name: "FROGQUEST"

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 23rd January 1997 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA, of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Dated this 6th day of January 1997
By Order of the Board
P N PUTWAIN, Director

PUBLIC NOTICES

CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN
Fighting cancer on all fronts
Greater London Mini-Flag Day, 15 October 1996, result, Metropolitan Area - Gross £2218.96, Expenses £Nil. This generous help in our fight against cancer is much appreciated.

COMPANY NOTICES

QUEBEC CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY
4% FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK

In preparation for the payment of the half-year's interest due February 1 [illegible] on the above stock the transfer books will be closed at [illegible] on January [illegible] and will be re-opened on January [illegible]

D. R. Kent
Assistant Secretary,
42-46 Trafalgar Square,
London, WC2N 5DY.
January 8 1997

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 46 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
LBC Group Ltd
REGISTERED NUMBER: 2761499
FORMER COMPANY NAMES: Mawlaw 184 Ltd
TRADING NAMES: None

Notice is hereby given that on 6 January 1997, Murdoch Lang McKillop and Martin Fishman of 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers of the above company by Bank of Scotland under the powers conferred in a debenture dated 28 January 1993 containing fixed and floating charges over the assets and undertakings of the company.

Dated this 7th day of January 1997
MURDOCH LANG McKILLOP & MARTIN FISHMAN
Joint Administrative Receivers

PUBLIC NOTICES

WARNING

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF THE SHOOTING OF BIRDS

Owing to the recent severe cold weather the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Secretary of State for Wales have made an Order prohibiting the shooting of birds on Schedule 2 Part 1 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (including wild ducks and geese) from 9:00am on Friday, 10 January until 9:00am on Friday, 24 January in England and Wales. Anyone who does not comply is committing an offence.

Ref. No: E1460-01.EWD

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-782 7344 OR FAX: 0171-782 7827

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

Toad quits AIM for main market

By Fraser Nelson

TOAD, the car security company, has become the second company to move from the Alternative Investment Market to the official list, joining the main exchange with a value of £14.6 million.

Charles Parker, who joined the company as chief executive on Monday, said that the move was fuelled by a desire to attract more institutional support and to be listed on a more "respectable" market.

Mr Parker, formerly commercial director of Charter, said that the switch was essential to completing the raising of £7.1 million of funds.

He added that much of the money was raised on the provision that the company left the junior exchange.

Mr Parker said: "Some of the institutions said they could not have so much as talked to us if we were not going on to the official list. The main market is properly regulated, it's where I come from, and I feel comfortable there."

Toad's shares have had a disappointing run on AIM. Placed at 115p 14 months ago, they have fallen almost without interruption, closing ½p lower yesterday at 84½p.

Over the same period, the company has secured contracts worth £4 million, against the £3 million it struck in sales in its last financial year.

Cirqual, the specialist engineering company, moved from AIM to the full list last month, but did not raise any money.

Builder to home in on Irish market

From Eileen McCabe in Dublin

ABBEY, the housebuilder, will expand in the Republic of Ireland this year, its chairman said yesterday.

The company, which is registered in Dublin but whose main operations are in the South East of England, reported pre-tax profits of Ir£3.56 million (£3.4 million) for the six months to October, up from Ir£3 million last time. Earnings per share grew to Ir6.16p (Ir5.19p).

Charles Gallagher, chairman, said that the improvement in the UK housing market that resulted in higher unit sales in the first half had not yet prompted a full recovery in margins.

Abbey sold 67 units in the Irish market in the first half and 200 in the UK. It planned to take advantage of its landbank and the booming economy in the Republic to build some 250 units in 1997-98.

Mr Gallagher forecast an upturn for M&J Engineers, the UK plant hire business, the property rental division and said it was "the first time in many years" that all three business were expected to progress. The interim dividend is Ir2.2p, up 4.8 per cent and payable on February 18.

BOOK PROMOTION

THE TIMES 1000 1997

£5 off cover price

edited by Martin Barrow

Published every year since 1967, *The Times 1000* is one of the most important and best-known business listings in the world. Packed with up-to-the-minute company information in clear and easy-to-use tables, it is the definitive reference for business today. The book features:

- the top 1000 companies in the UK and Europe.
- detailed five year analysis.
- the top 100 companies in the US and Japan.
- business trends in Europe, the US and the Far East.
- assets, turnover, profits.
- company addresses and key personnel.

Times readers can order a copy of this year's recently published edition for just £35 including p&p, a saving of £5 off the normal price.

Martin Barrow is Deputy Business Editor of *The Times*.

The Times 1000 1997

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) ....
Address ....
.... Post Code ....
Please send me ..... copy/ies of The Times 1000 1997 at £35 per copy.
Price includes postage and packing. I enclose a cheque/postal order(s) made payable to: *The Times* FT610
Value .... No. ....
Please write name and address on back of all cheques.
Or debit my Access/Visa card number:
☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Print Name .... Expiry Date ....
Signature .... Date ....

Send coupon and remittance to *THE TIMES 1000 1997*
FT610, PO Box 69, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 7ZD.

Allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Offer available to the UK only. If dissatisfied please return goods within 7 days of receipt for full refund. No claims for loss in transit can be made after 60 days. The Times cannot be held responsible for returned goods lost in transit. Offer subject to availability.

You may be sent further information on offers and services which may be of interest to you. If you do not wish to participate please tick box. ☐

FOR 24 HOUR ORDERS TELEPHONE: 01525 851945

هكذا من الأصل

Inflation forecasts bring pay warning

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

WAGE bargaining in Britain is likely to be tougher this year in the face of rising inflation, a new pay forecast for 1997 says today. The forecast comes as a new boardroom survey shows the continuing popularity of executive share options despite moves against them by the Government-backed Greenbury inquiry on top pay.

The warning on pay comes from Incomes Data Services, the independent wage specialist, in its latest analysis of wage settlements. After the rise in the retail price index, IDS says today: "The upturn in the rate of inflation to 2.7 per cent and the deterioration on the outlook for inflation over the coming year has put pressure on negotiators."

Suggesting that rising inflation is a "more difficult background" for pay bargaining, IDS details a range of City inflation forecasts, suggesting inflation will rise to between 2.8 per cent and 3.1 per cent in the first three months of this year, rising to 3.5 or even 4 per cent in the second half.

Higher interest rates are seen as the principal interest behind the expected rise in inflation. The IDS study says that, if such inflation forecasts prove correct, "then pay bargaining may be much tougher in 1997 and pay settlements may be pushed higher by rising inflation". While it says that the overall trend on pay is remaining steady with settlements at 3 to 4 per cent, it notes some "awkward" market pressures on pay. Though the settlement floor has dropped to 3 per cent or below, some deals are higher, such as the 7 per cent rise in the lock, latch and key industry.

On executive pay, a new study on incentive arrangements casts doubt on the implementation of the Greenbury recommendations.

The study, by the Monks Partnership remuneration advisers, suggests that the longer-term incentive plans recommended by Greenbury are unlikely to replace the share option schemes, at least in the immediate future.

Surveying 4,500 boardroom jobs in a sample of 600 companies, the Monks study says that 90 per cent of companies still have share option schemes though 10 per cent have now ceased giving options to board directors. But the Monks study says that "many of the alternatives to the share option plan are complex and potentially costly to administer. Share options may better meet the needs of some companies."

It says that there were some expectations that Greenbury would lead to a common approach to incentive plans: "The effect has been the opposite and the diversity and complexity of plans continues to increase."

Peter Vardy, chairman, saw the company significantly outperform the market

Expansion at Vardy will create 250 jobs

By Fraser Nelson

REG VARDY, the innovative car dealer, is poised to create more than 250 jobs through a £15 million expansion plan designed to refurbish its dealerships and open more of its three-acre "supersites" for used cars.

The company is to spend £9 million developing its current sites and on expanding its exposure to Volkswagen, Jeep and Jaguar vehicles, which will create 100 jobs. It also plans to spend a further £6 million on opening three more supersites, which will create between 150 and 180 jobs.

Graeme Potts, chief executive, said the company aimed to expand in town centre sites, and was prepared to pay high premiums for the privilege. "We want to locate as close to the customer as we can," he said. "You can buy an acre in the wilderness for a lot less than the sites we are looking at. We are taking an investment view."

The dealer strongly outperformed the market in the six months to October 31, selling 36,000 cars — a 21 per cent lift against an industry average of 5 per cent. Stripping out the impact of acquisitions, the figure stood at 18 per cent at the half-way stage. Pre-tax profits were £8.2 million (£6.15 million), on sales of £345 million (£280 million). It opened two more supersites during the six months, making a total of five.

Vardy shares gained 23p yesterday, to a five-month high of 315½p. Earnings were 10.7p (8.8p) per share, leaving an interim payout of 2.6p (2.25p), due on April 30.

Tempus, page 28

Boots tones up Italian presence in £4.1m deal

By Our City Staff

BOOTS, the healthcare and retailing company, has acquired Farmila Dermical, a privately-owned Italian skincare business, for £4.1 million.

The business, with an annual turnover of £2 million, is strong in the therapeutic areas of psoriasis, seborrhoeic dermatitis and dry skin. With sales are worth about £2 million in an £80 million market, Farmila Dermical includes Balta, Riaderm and Leviax among its brands. Total annual sales for Boots Healthcare in Italy will grow to more than £15 million on the acquisition of Farmila Dermical.

Boots hopes to gain a 20 per cent share of Italy's therapeutic skincare market in the medium term through the Farmila Dermical deal, according to Barry Clare, managing director of Boots Healthcare International (BHI). That would bring the group's market share in Italy in line with its share of the market in France, where Boots acquired Laboratoires Lutsia for some £115 million in September last year. Lutsia has sales of around £40 million in a market worth £200 million.

Mr Clare said that he did not see any reason why the Boots group "should not achieve similar levels to France in Italy in the medium term." BHI already sells cold cure and painkiller products in Italy and hopes to add its own-brand E45 skincare range to Lutsia's products to sell in the country, Mr Clare said. The E45 skincare range has around 60 per cent of the UK market but is not as well known as Lutsia's range in continental Europe. Mr Clare said its first new products for Italy would be launched in the spring.

BHI is still looking to buy interests in the German over-the-counter medicines market, Mr Clare added, along with any fill-in or complementary acquisitions.

"We want to be the leader for therapeutic skincare in Europe," he said, adding that the Boots group is already market leader in Britain. "With the Italian purchase, we have got the legs to exploit our product range in Europe," said Mr Clare.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

CIA Group settles dispute with ITV

CIA GROUP, Europe's second largest independent advertising media specialists, settled its legal dispute yesterday with the ITV companies by agreeing to pay them £1.8 million. The amount, equivalent to more than a quarter of 1995's pre-tax profits of £6.7 million, will be taken as a one-off charge in the 1996 profit and loss account. The results for the year to December 31 are to be announced in March. Several ITV companies, including Yorkshire Tyne Tees Television and Granada, issued writs against CIA in October, alleging a shortfall in spending by CIA's clients.

The ITV companies threatened to withdraw credit lines and commission payments unless the dispute was resolved. Chris Ingram, chairman of CIA, said: "While we are pleased that the agreement has finally been reached, we are obviously disappointed about the impact, albeit one-off, on our profit record." CIA shares closed unchanged at 132½p.

CRH growth continues

CRH, the Irish building materials group, has spent Ir£30.5 million on capital projects and acquisitions in continental Europe and North America. These investments follow transactions totalling Ir£405 million last year. CRH expanded its DIY stores and its building supplies depots in The Netherlands. It also acquired a Dutch manufacturer of glass rooflight structures, a Dutch brick manufacturer and an 11 per cent stake in a publicly quoted French builders merchant. In America, CRH acquired sand reserves in New Hampshire and a Quebec polymer concrete company and asphalt plants.

TBI sale nets £49m

TBI, the property company that owns airports in Cardiff and Belfast, is raising £49 million through the sale of The Fountains office development in Brentford, Middlesex, to Springlake Business. The property comprises 140,000 sq ft of offices in four buildings and 34,000 sq ft of business units. The property is worth about £47.9 million and generates annual net rent of £4.3 million before interest costs. The proceeds will be used to reduce debts on the asset and to supplement cash resources. TBI negotiated a change to a break clause in the lease with the tenant before selling.

Druck profits static

DRUCK HOLDINGS, the electronic pressure and temperature devices manufacturer, blamed the strengthening pound, an increase in overheads and lower gross margins for static pre-tax profits in the six months to September 30, 1996. Profits remained at £4.4 million and earnings per share fell from 4.31p to 4.18p. The interim dividend rose to 0.54p (0.5p). At the end of September outstanding orders were 29 per cent higher than at the same time last year. Export markets such as Eastern Europe, the Far East and India rose significantly, and exports now account for more than 80 per cent of turnover.

Paribas in sale talks

PARIBAS, the French financial holding company, is negotiating the sale of Credit du Nord, the domestic retail bank, to Société Générale for Ffr2.2 billion, it was announced yesterday. The transaction will take place in two stages, with Société Générale initially acquiring a controlling interest and making a pledge to acquire the outstanding equity within three years. Paribas wishes to withdraw from retail banking and concentrate on international investment, merchant banking and specialised financial services.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

ANNOUNCING THIS YEAR'S TOP HOLIDAY DESTINATION:

THE NEWSAGENT.

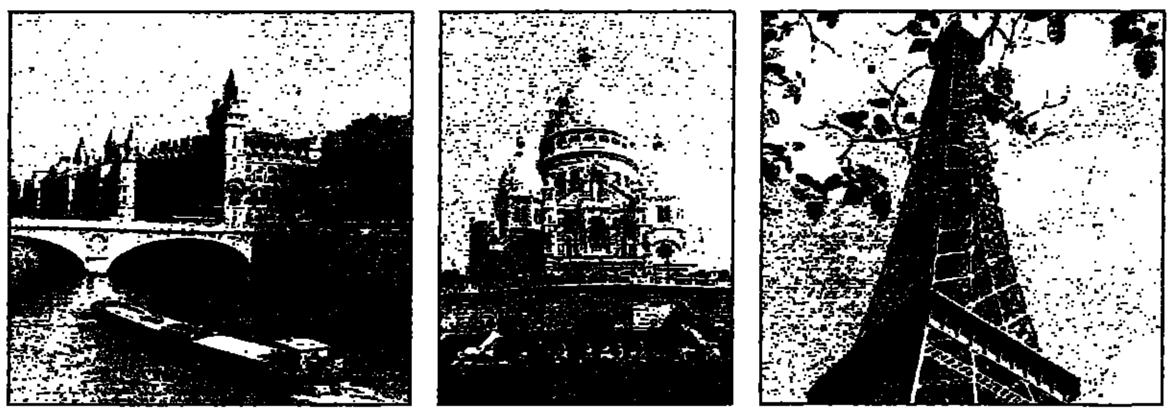
THE SUNDAY TIMES GREAT HOLIDAY OFFER STARTS SUNDAY JANUARY 19TH.

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

A TIMES READER OFFER

A SHORT BREAK IN ONE OF EUROPE'S FINEST CAPITALS

Experience the thrill and romance of Paris with our fabulous offer



Two nights in Paris from only £39 per person

FROM ONLY £39 per person, you can drive over to France via Le Shuttle or Stena Line and spend two nights in one of our carefully selected hotels in Paris. £39 per person is based on a car and 4 adults with two twin/double hotel rooms, or alternatively, from £49 per person for a car with only 2 or 3 adults — sharing one hotel room.

This bargain break includes a return Channel crossing with your car and a chance to stock up with Duty Free goods on both your outward and return journeys.

Once in Paris, you can visit the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Montmartre and the Sacre Coeur, or take a cruise along the Seine.

STAY AT ONE OF THESE HOTELS:

2★ Jardin de Paris (RO) 2 nights £39pp for car and 4 adults. This hotel lies close to the lively Place de la Republique and within easy reach of the major sights of Paris. All bedrooms have private shower/bathroom, telephone and TV. Public parking payable locally. One child under 12 can stay free of charge when sharing with two full paying adults.

3★ Forest Hill (RO) 2 nights £39pp for car and 4 adults. The Forest Hill Bougival is situated to the west of Paris on the banks of the Seine. Ideal for self-drive breaks in Paris, the Forest Hill is also within driving distance of the world famous Chateau de Versailles whilst accessible to the centre of Paris by public transport (about £3 return). The hotel has a bar and restaurant which overlooks the river. All bedrooms have private shower/bathroom, telephone, satellite TV and minibar. Free underground parking is available at the hotel. One child (under 12) can stay free of charge when sharing with two full paying adults.

3★ Montmartre Inn (BB) 2 nights £59pp for car and 4 adults. This attractive, recently renovated hotel is located close to the Moulin Rouge and the heart of Montmartre but also within 15 minutes walk of the famous department stores such as Galeries Lafayette. All bedrooms have private shower/bathroom, hair dryer, TV and mini-bar. One child (under 12) can stay free of charge when sharing with two full paying adults.

RO = room only; BB = bed and breakfast; PP = per person.

If you prefer to stay in another location, or would like to upgrade to a higher category hotel, there is a range of alternative accommodation in and around Paris on offer.

EXTEND YOUR STAY

You can extend your stay at any of the hotels on offer to a maximum of 4 nights as long as it is specified at the time of your original booking. Prices start from £15 per person per night. Eurostar prices are also available upon request.

Offer is valid for completed travel until 26 March, 1997, and is subject to availability.

For further details & booking form please return the coupon below to:
The Times Paris Offer, EuroDrive,
Image House, Station Rd, London N17 9LR.
ABTA V473X

The Times Paris Offer

Name..

Address..

....

........................Postcode........................

Please tick box if you do not wish to receive future offers from *Times Newspapers* or companies which may be of interest. ☐

This holiday is operated by Euro Drive Travel Club, a company independent of *Times Newspapers Limited*.

FOR BROCHURE AND BOOKING FORM CALL 0181 324 4000
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-8PM SATURDAY 9AM-5.30PM

Shares close at best of the day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	416	Allied Domecq	432½	+5½	6.8	13.1
625	477	Bulmer (HP)	552½	+2½	3.1	16.3
131	[illegible]	Burn Stewart	70½	+5½	6.0	74.9
885	615	Glenmorangie A	835		1.7	24.1
498	417	Grand Met	445½	+1	4.5	14.4
493	425	Guinness	437½	+1½	4.3	13.6
378	315	Highland Distl	346		3.0	16.7
883	255½	Matthew Clark	777½	+18½	10.8	13.2
141	91½	Morland (?)	107		5.4	14.4
2612½	1375	SA Breweries	1512½	+9½	2.1	

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
350	163½	Brit Biotech	199½	+1	...	...
715	340	Cantab Pharma	680	-2½		
683	441	Celltech	545	+27½		
588	224	Chiroscience	326½	-1	...	...
447	149½	Cortecs	183½	+5		
1034½	767	Glaxo Well	894	-3½	4.2	12.8
475	194	ML Laboratories	243½	+2½	..	63.7
286	208	Medeva	262½	-1½	2.0	14.9
286½	175½	Peptide Therp	258½	-5	..	...
808	524	Scotia	721½	+20	..	...
266	179	Shire Pharms	228½	-½	..	34.6
86	69	SkyePharma	73½			
834½	628½	SmithKline	778½	-5½	2.5	28.2
537	310	Therp Anti Inc	810	-10	..	...
633	457½	Vanguard	532½		..	...
1768½	1216	Zeneca	1637½	+6½	2.5	35.6

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

FREE OFFER

For Every Investor Who Wants To Make Serious Money From The Exciting Penny Share Market

To receive a FREE copy of **PENNY SHARE GUIDE**, Britain's No. 1 publication for tipping exciting smaller company shares PLUS an exclusive FREE market report pack including details of how to claim a FREE copy of 'The Investor's Guide to How the Stock Market Really Works' published by the *Financial Times*/Pitman Publishing, simply . . .

CALL NOW ON
FREEPHONE: 0500 823873

Approved by Fleet Street Publications Ltd. who are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Registered Office: 271 Regent Street, London W1R 7PA

The past is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Investments in smaller companies generally have a higher risk factor and it can be more difficult to realise such an investment. This investment is not suitable for everyone. If you have any doubt, you should obtain expert advice

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7% 1997	[illegible]		6.98	6.42
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 13¼% 1997	[illegible]		13.23	6.22
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 10½% 1997	[illegible]		10.45	6.31
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 1997	[illegible]		8.63	6.45
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 15% 1997	[illegible]		14.09	6.56
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 9¾% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.46	6.61
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.20	6.66
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 13% 1998-01	[illegible]	[illegible]	12.81	6.94
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	13.63	6.89
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	11.03	6.90
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.06	6.99
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	11.07	6.88
[illegible]	107	Treas 10½% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.76	6.97
[illegible]	96	Treas 6% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.13	6.92
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.48	7.06
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.56	7.13
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.79	7.19
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 13% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	11.05	7.23
114	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.14	7.29
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.09	7.30

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.83	7.44
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.78	7.44
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.86	7.50
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.01	7.31
[illegible]	[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	[illegible]		4.22	6.28
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.53	7.54
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.02	7.51
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.04	7.59
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2005	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.52	7.60
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.89	7.52
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7½% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.57	7.64
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.70	7.65
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.48	7.54
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.77	7.50
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.03	7.68
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9% 2008	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.20	7.72
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2009	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.89	7.76

LONGS (over 15 years)

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6¼% 2010	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.20	7.82
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.17	7.81
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.15	7.82
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.79	7.56
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.89	7.84
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.81	7.84
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.86	7.82
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.04	7.86
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12% 2013-17	[illegible]	...	8.45	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	Tr 8% 2021	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.86	7.81

UNDATED

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.90	..
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 2½%	[illegible]		8.14	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	Consols 4%	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.10	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	0.26	2.24
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.76	3.32
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.96	3.37
119	[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.03	3.40
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.19	3.47
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.28	3.52
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.36	3.56
149	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.42	3.60
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2016	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.47	3.64
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.53	3.68
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2024	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.54	3.67
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.54	3.68

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

For AIB see Govett (John)

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
General Acc	687.10	731.80	-3.90	2.43
General Inc	573.40	610.10	-4.70	2.43
UK Growth Acc	475.80	506.20	-3.00	2.56
UK Growth Inc	307.80	327.10	-1.90	2.56
Higher Inc Acc	951.30	985.70	-3.80	3.90
Higher Inc Inc	453.50	482.50	-2.00	3.90
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	211.90	223.80	-0.10	5.48
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	92.77	97.99	-0.06	5.48
Nth America	357.70	380.60	-1.90	
Europe	361.10	384.20	-0.40	0.26
Brit Exmpt	94.40	100.50	-0.40	2.87
Brit Fxdints Acc	120.80	128.60	-0.80	4.44
Brit Fxdints Inc	80.87	86.04	-0.32	4.44
Global Opps	98.23	104.50	-1.10	..
Balanced Acc	64.39	68.50	-0.40	2.51
Balanced Inc	60.12	63.96	-0.38	2.51
Japan Acc	36.00	38.30	-1.22	
Pac Basin Acc	393.90	419.10	-3.80	0.84

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt & Fixed Int	131.00	139.00†	-0.10	6.94
High Inc Equity	188.40	199.40	-0.80	4.56
Worldwide Bond	264.50	280.50	-0.80	4.77
American Growth	388.10	412.70†	-2.70	0.32
Asian Pacific	316.20	336.30	-1.40	0.41
Assets & Earnings	312.70	334.40	-1.50	2.82
Euro Capital Acc	189.10	201.20	-0.80	0.79
Extra Inc	43.01	45.75†	-0.10	8.09
General	385.80	394.00	-1.90	2.87
Global Opps	69.19	73.61	-0.30	0.54
Japan	93.44	98.73	-2.17	
Managed Inc	48.16	51.23†	-0.13	4.38
Mastertrust	167.19	178.70	-1.10	1.34
US Emerging Cos	196.70	209.30	-1.70	
Ethical	84.64	89.94	-0.10	1.97
International	132.40	140.80	-1.40	0.51
Dividend & Growth	69.14	73.55†	-0.14	4.55
Global Gwth & Sec	74.91	79.11	-0.29	2.35
Latin America	67.51	71.82	+0.87	0.54
Capital Reserve	145.90	145.90	..	4.77

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Small Cos	2427.80	2526.00	+57.00	..

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 580

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Inc & Growth	59.52	62.31	-0.54	0.15
Emerging Mkts	72.30	75.40	+0.80	0.84
European	152.20	158.20	+0.10	
Extra Income #	48.30	50.83†	-0.01	6.40
Far East Emg Eco	124.60	130.60	+0.10	0.48
Fixed Interest #	25.76	26.79	..	8.07
Fund Inv Tst #	151.90	158.30†	-0.70	9.54
Japan	150.80	156.70	-3.00	
Latin American	59.80	62.24	+0.80	0.72
Pacific	79.31	83.25	-0.25	0.31
Property Share	78.35	82.25†	-0.82	2.14
UK Emerging Cos	71.34	77.18†	+0.08	1.25
UK Growth	56.33	59.66	-0.22	2.80
Aber World Port #	81.94	83.45†	-0.22	2.90
Ethical	78.44	81.58†	-0.04	2.15
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	58.16	59.23†	+0.04	7.36

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 258 5908

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Resdl Property #	99.76	107.20	..	5.30

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	156.97	167.71†	-1.11	1.02
UK Equity	98.02	108.30	-0.71	3.33
Mk Equity & Bd	59.06	62.59	-0.03	6.10
UK Smlr Cos	53.36	57.08	-0.37	1.25

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Inv Fund	786.09	787.97	+1.29	4.75
Fxd Int Sec	155.08	155.70	-1.56	9.18

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	774.34	786.04	-0.46	4.38
Investment Acc	836.15	856.49	-1.08	
Fixed Int Inc	175.63	176.13	-0.92	9.20
Fixed Int Acc	233.99	234.98	-1.72	

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Buckmaster Intl	85.63	90.74	..	5.56
Buck Hi-Tech	44.10	48.00†	+3.50	..
Acorn Ethical Tst	189.55	199.04†	..	0.44
City Fin Agnts	80.79	84.84	..	1.81
City Fin Intl	87.42	91.80	..	9.14
Frtmn Hse Cap	317.75	336.03†	..	1.49
Stockbkg Wrld Gth	134.96	143.06		
J Shl Inc/Gth Inc	57.37	60.74†	-1.18	3.46
Ships Utilities	61.46	63.05	-0.64	7.03

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	53.12	56.36	-0.04	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gwth	80.45	85.58	-0.42	
Dragon Growth	71.74	76.72	-0.80	0.26
Equity High Inc	92.70	98.50†	-0.27	4.10
-do- Accum	135.38	144.95	-0.40	4.10
Extra Income Inc	26.36	27.77†	-0.03	7.36
Extra Income Acc	29.42	30.99	-0.03	7.36
European Gwth	63.35	67.17	-0.31	0.66
Evergreen	31.02	33.17	-0.12	
General Equity	109.81	116.51	-0.52	2.27
Japan Growth	37.52	39.97	-1.12	
Pedigree Gwth	66.26	71.04	-0.38	2.27
Paul Sm Cos Inc	38.63	41.54	+0.23	1.10
-do- Accum	41.18	44.28	+0.25	1.18
Retirement Inc #	28.03	30.30	-0.14	5.96
Special Sits	48.17	51.80	+0.05	7.30
UK & General	59.57	63.78	-0.52	0.53

COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced	72.30	75.40	-0.16	4.01
Capital	85.73	89.30	-0.48	2.56
High Income	51.99	54.15	+0.03	6.67
Top 50	58.74	60.65	-0.30	2.52

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD
PREMIER PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	199.71	207.52	-0.37	4.43
Long Gilt	43.10	44.89†	-0.11	6.26
Monthly Inc Plus	50.08	52.18	-0.07	8.59
Preference Share	47.77	49.76†	-0.04	7.83
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	143.72	149.72†	-0.20	5.70
Managed Fund	77.29	80.51	-0.35	2.75
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	54.98	57.27	+0.03	1.65
-do- Accum	64.99	67.70	+0.04	1.65

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
0171 581 3020

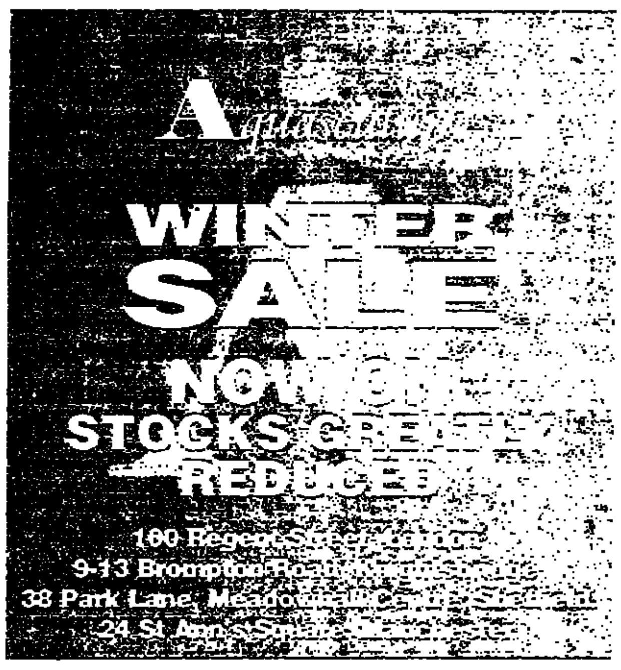
	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
World Health	210.30	223.70†	+1.60	
Income #	224.21	238.52†	+0.17	4.22
UK Growth	88.79	93.81†	-0.03	1.80
Intl Growth	84.19	89.56	-1.06	0.45
Ecology	105.30	112.02	+0.39	0.87
European	211.19	224.67†	+0.40	0.56
Far Eastern	291.00	309.50†	-4.20	
UK Special Sits	57.12	60.92	-0.21	

MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01620 825867

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Fd #	1414.90	1436.57		2.90
Income #	1325.50	1342.20†		4.70

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Maldon General	170.50	174.30*		3.47



KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS
Dealers: 0171 956 7354

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	100.60	104.00†	+0.10	7.20
Euro Plus Inc	103.90	110.50		2.75
-do- Accum	105.90	110.50		2.75
Gilt Yield	118.30	124.90†	+0.10	6.48
Global Income	232.60	247.40	-1.40	3.58
High Yield	159.60	169.80†	-0.80	5.49
-do- Accum	533.20	567.20†	-2.70	5.49
Money Market	98.37	98.37†	+0.01	5.94
Smlr Cos Div	64.12	68.27†	+0.32	1.32
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	8.824	9.923	-0.03	
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	156.30	166.30	-0.50	
Asian Growth	321.30	342.40	-2.30	
-do- Accum	378.20	402.30	-2.80	..
North American	110.70	117.80†	-1.30	
European Special	129.10	137.30	+0.40	1.21

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0800 363432

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
M & S Inv Pktlio	175.70	185.30†	-1.00	2.49
-do- Accum	215.30	222.00†	-1.30	2.49
UK Sel Prtflo	162.30	167.40†	-1.00	2.48
-do- Accum	197.60	203.50†	-1.20	2.48
UK 100 Cos	120.40	120.40	-0.90	2.81
-do- Accum	122.60	122.60	-0.90	2.81

MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD
01204 364 842

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	71.30	75.95		3.58

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0131 479 4646

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Income	84.23	89.42†	-0.22	3.02
European	165.73	177.30	-0.10	0.65
Income #	85.43	90.69	-0.45	4.10
Nth American	100.60	106.29	-0.60	0.15
Far East	175.20	186.30	-1.90	0.21

■ POP 1

David Bowie turns 50, but does age matter any more in the music business?

■ POP 2

A mixture of bohemian chic and preening slobbishness — how can Jonathan Fire Eater fail?

THE TIMES ARTS POP

■ POP 3

Beenie Man shows the eclectic power of contemporary reggae on his aptly named new album, *Maestro*

■ POP 4

Not content with making their mark in politics, the Spice Girls are also enriching the English language

GRAHAM WOOD

Still running for the shadows in his golden years. David Bowie is nevertheless a mere stripling when compared to some of those still in thrall to the rock'n'roll backbeat

Rocking with the cavemen

In the week David Bowie turned 50, **David Sinclair** wonders what happened to the idea that pop was a young man's game

What an extraordinary fuss has been made over David Bowie's latest birthday. From lengthy magazine articles and weighty retrospectives on Radio 4 and BBC2 to respectful celebrations on fun-loving Radio 1. Bowie's "achievement" in reaching 50 has generated the kind of attention normally reserved for anniversaries of great pop festivals or momentous deaths. So why all the interest?

While not unconnected to the fact that Bowie has a new album, *Earthling*, released next month, the hoopla surrounding his ascension to pop senior citizen status has been stoked by the fact that it still seems strange to think of musicians in their fifties behaving like fully functioning pop stars.

Bowie has done better at this than most. Many of his contemporaries from the 1970s have either died (Marc Bolan, Mick Ronson) or faded (Bryan Ferry, Ian Hunter of Mott the Hoople, Alice Cooper, Slade). Others, such as Elton John (who will be 50 in March) and Rod Stewart (who turns 52 today), have maintained their profiles by becoming family entertainers who now have more in common with crooners like Cliff Richard and Neil Diamond than with the sounds of Britpop or the modern dance scene.

Bowie may have had some disastrous moments, but he has never completely lost touch. He plays hardly any of his old songs these days, and his most recent album, *Outside*, was his most confrontational work in many years. But perhaps this is not as surprising as it seems. The days when pop was perceived in much the same way as athletics — a sprint to reach the finishing line before the age of 30 — are clearly long gone. Noel Gallagher will be 30 this year, Stephen Jones of Babybird is 31, Jarvis Cocker 33, Shaun Ryder 34, Ian Broudie of the Lightning Seeds 37 and Paul Weller 38. No one is suggesting that any of them should be thinking of retirement. And, while veterans such as U2 (average age 35) and R.E.M. (38) have obviously been around a long time, no one is saying that they are too old for the job, per se.

For this, all rockers of a more mature vintage owe a considerable debt of gratitude to the Rolling Stones, who have drawn a huge amount of ageist flak at every stage of their career over the past 20 years. Already into their thirties when punk arrived, and therefore written off as hopelessly over the hill even then, the Stones have steadfastly resisted the urge to cast off their outlaw image and accept the passage towards a graceful middle age. Now in their mid-fifties, they continue to push up the age at which it is possible still to claim bona fide rock star status. But even the most ardent Stones fan would accept that creatively the group is long past its prime.

"When you're in your mid-twenties you've got something that you lose," Eric Clapton told *Q* magazine when he was still only 41 (he turns 52 in March). "You've just got a certain amount of dynamism that you lose when you turn 30. You have to accept that, otherwise you're chasing a dream."

Their energy may become dissipated, but do pop stars *necessarily* lose their creative abilities as they get older? Is the ageing process inextricably linked with artistic (as opposed to popular) decline? Nothing could be further from the truth in other areas of the arts, so why should popular music be any different?

While many key performers such as Bob Dylan, Chuck Berry and Paul McCartney have drifted into an embarrassing artistic dotage, a surprising number of acts have seen their careers blossom in later years. At the age of 47 Lou Reed ended a long period in the wilderness with his album *New York*, released in 1989, since when he has gone from strength to strength. In the same year Neil Young, then 44, released *Freedom*, an extraordinarily vigorous album which heralded the start of a six-year purple patch. Tina Turner was a sprightly 46 when she made the most unlikely comeback of all with her album *Private Dancer* in 1984, while John Lee Hooker, now 75, has sold more records in his seventies than during the rest of his career.

There is no doubt that the engine of creativity in popular music is most efficiently driven by factors relating specifically to youth, in particular boundless energy and a surplus of raging hormones. In an industry obsessed with image and change, young acts are always going to be more of the moment than their older counterparts.

But still one can point to artists such as John Hiatt, Iggy Pop, Shawn Colvin, Van Morrison, Richard Thompson, Peter Gabriel, John Mellencamp, Norma Waterson, Steve Earle, Aerosmith, Joe Ely, Bruce Springsteen and Johnny Cash, all of whom have produced (and continue to produce) some of their finest work while languishing on the far side of 40.

Their music offers something deeper and more enduring than the manic thrill of younger pop. Many have drawn on the established traditions of folk, country and blues, but their musical vocabulary remains that of a generation that came up during the era of rock'n'roll's primacy. Their continuing presence is gradually extending the musical and emotional range of pop, just as surely as the new performers who ensure its continuing vitality.

Larging it? I should zigah-zigah

Those who live their lives by the vocabulary of pop music are fated to repeat it. Sounds fair to me

I was a bit of a *Reader's Digest* groupie in my early teens. Presuming that *It Pays to Increase Your Word Power* was the benchmark for all civilised conversation, I dutifully learnt all the words defined in this quiz over a period of five years. I now have a completely useless, arcane vocabulary, with a bias towards military slang from the Boer War, but which also embraces Corybantic (manic and annoying, like a small kitten hanging from your nostril by one claw), roborant (medicine that makes you strong) and Lonk (it's a Lancastrian sheep).

CAITLIN MORAN

Music slang works in much the same way. Those who don't know what it means generally don't need to, but have a vague, unsettling feeling that maybe they should. Luckily, there's always the *Oxford English Dictionary* to come to the rescue of us all. Giving most new words five years to prove themselves, this year the *OED* rejected entries for "loungecore" and "Romo" — easy listening and the New Romantic revival — and "lo-fi", the new catch-all description of what was once called "indie" music. Of course, all these are quite sensible words, compared with some of the slang you hear . . .

Just as the Inuit have 57 different words for snow, because snow is all that there is in their lives, so musicians have 57 different words for cocaine, for much the same reason. Schnozz, Peruvian marching powder, charlie, nose-ningle and Vim (the nickname of choice for the realistic).

Of course, there are those who make it their business to be as obscure as possible. I recall, in my wilder years, being on a train with A Famous Band, drinking champagne and celebrating their new Top Ten hit by wearing a very silly tinfoil hat.

One band member leant forward conspiratorially, and started singing a song I couldn't recognise in a rather urgent way. Seeing my confusion, his bandmate explained: "He wants to know if you want to go to Wichita." As we were just pulling out of Doncaster station, and had chosen to catch this train in order to make it home for *Police! Camera! Action!*, I merely kicked him in a friendly way, and went back to balancing my head on the table. "No, no, no," he said, more urgently. "You know — Wichita! Wichita! The Wichita Lineman! *Line*, man."

To which, in a burst of thankful joy at having finally twigged, I yelled: "Oh, you mean *cocaine*!" At the request of other passengers, we subsequently moved to another carriage.

And as surely as night follows day, and dealers follow pop stars, so feeling a bit giddy and off follows going on a 48-hour bender. This is why the second-largest pool of slang is devoted to being drunk. Troused, larruped, trollied, wedged, gibboned, minged off me mong — all trainee lush puppies (young drinkers) pick up the lingo as swiftly as they pick up their pints.

Of course, when you reach the latter stages of being "gattered", things tend to go a bit "pear-shaped": you may end up snogging some "spenk" (ugly feller) and have to "kick him to the kerb" (get rid of him) when the "kriss" (hunky and cool) guy you fancy suddenly turns up.

The rise of Oasis has continued the trend for nationwide adoption of Mancunian slang, which started with the success of Happy Mondays and the Stone Roses. The "munted" (ugly fellers) may take comfort in the fact that, if in possession of "Gallaghers" (large eyebrows), they may still be able to pull. "Skanking" — a term originally used to describe the clipped rhythm guitar in reggae — is now being widely mouthed.

In Manchester it means standing someone up, while in the Midlands it's something generally "bobbins", or rubbish. Dance lingo, on the other hand, has become over-used: "Top one!" "Sorted", "Larging it" and "Massive" just make most people wince. But "cool" is still cool.

The main new entrant into language in the last year, however, has been provided by the Spice Girls. "Zigah-zigah" is the "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" of the Nineties — a word to cover every situation, particularly occasions when you would like to swear, but the company is too polite.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

ENJOY A FREE DAY AT A HEALTH CLUB

Plus annual memberships worth £40,000 to be won

To coincide with the launch of our Discovery Diet Guide, *The Times* has teamed up with LivingWell and other leading health clubs to offer you up to six free visits to any of the participating clubs, a list of which will be printed again tomorrow. The offer allows you to use the same facilities at the health clubs as those enjoyed by full members. Simply present the voucher below when you go for your pre-booked visit.

Readers who take up this offer will be entered into a prize draw with a chance to win an annual health club membership to your chosen club. There are memberships worth £40,000 to be won.

THE TIMES FREE HEALTH CLUB DAY MEMBERSHIP VOUCHER AND PRIZE DRAW ENTRY DAY 5

This voucher entitles the bearer to a free day's membership at one of the health clubs listed in *The Times* on January 6 and 11, 1997. This voucher also acts as a prize draw entry coupon for the chance to win a free membership for a year to the winner's chosen health club. There are annual memberships worth a total of £40,000 to be won. The offer is valid until Friday February 28, 1997. This date is also the closing date for entry to the prize draw.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1 The offer is subject to availability. 2 Readers must book their visits in advance by telephone and state that they are using *The Times* offer. 3 This voucher must be presented when you turn up on the day. 4 The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. 5 There will be additional charges for therapies. Please check what is included in the offer at the time of booking.

Title .... Initials .... Surname ....

Address ....

....

Postcode .... Day Tel ....

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times* please tick ☐

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1. The offer is valid until February 28, 1997. 2. Your free visit(s) must be booked in advance by telephone quoting The Times offer 3. The printed voucher(s) must be presented to the club when you make your visit(s). 4. Each voucher is only valid for one free visit. 5. A maximum of six free visits are allowed per reader. 6. No photocopies will be accepted 7. The offer is subject to availability. 8. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. 9. There may be additional charges if you wish to book beauty treatments. 10. It is advisable to confirm what facilities are included in the offer at the time of booking.

CHANGING TIMES

Cheesy taster but no extras

JONATHAN FIRE EATER
Tremble Under Boom Lights
(Deceptive BLUFF 038CD, £4.99)

THERE is a certain left-field, bohemian approach to rock 'n'roll that only bands from New York seem able to carry off. The Cramps used to be pretty good at it, Royal Trux still have it in spades, the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion have taken it to wild extremes.

Despite their unpromisingly tedious name, Jonathan Fire Eater display something of the same wasted outsider chic on their five-track mini-album, *Tremble Under Boom Lights*.

Singer Stewart Lupton has an instantly charismatic style, combining the preening slobbishness of Mick Jagger with the Gothic punk dramatics of Iggy Pop and Nick Cave. "Give me daughters," he yelps in a way that most parents would not find reassuring, despite his subsequent promise that he would "raise them to go to church with me".

The album's art-school garage band production is given a distinctive twist by the cheesy organ sound of Walter Martin and drummer Matt Barrick's fidgety tom tom beats, and while hardly a revelation, it could easily turn out to be a taster for great things to come. But don't waste time looking for the "bonus track" promised on both disc and sleeve. It doesn't exist.

BEENIE MAN
Maestro
(Greensleeves GRELCD234, £13.99)

BRISTLING with vitality and touched by a wonderfully madcap sense of humour, Beenie Man's second internationally released collection could not offer a greater contrast to the downbeat, ganja-fuelled albums that used to dominate the reggae charts in the 1980s.

Still only 22, Beenie (Jamaican for weeny) was a child prodigy who cut his first album in Jamaica when he was ten. His hoarse, dancehall rap delivery has echoes of Shaggy's "boombastic" style, but *Maestro* has a far greater reach, both musically and in terms of its subject-matter, than just about any other contemporary reggae album that comes to mind.

Switching between cheekily boastful rhymes about his overactive love life and hard-hitting hymns to the power of black spirituality, the album incorporates everything from the supper-club swing of *Nuff Gal* to the loopy, pseudo-operatic declamations of the title track. Whatever else he may be, when it comes to the diversity of his music, Beenie is no meany.

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Space Jam
(Warner Sunset/Atlantic 7567-82961, £15.49)

A PART-LIVE action, part-animated movie about basketball, starring Bill Murray and Bugs Bunny, *Space Jam* is already a phenomenal success in America, where this soundtrack has produced new hit singles for Seal, R. Kelly and the Quad City DJs.

Featuring a host of R&B and hip-hop stars, including LL Cool J, Salt-N-Pepa and Coolio, the album is a quintessentially American experience. Numbers such as *Basketball Jones* (a lugubrious rap by Barry White and Chris Rock) and the title track (a cheerleader-type, hip-hop chant about "slamming" and waving your hands in the air) sound rather out of their element when divorced from the film, which is heading our way in the spring. Perhaps it will make better sense then.

DAVID SINCLAIR

● World music and blues album reviews, Page 36

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from The Times Music Shop on 0345-023 498

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	Spice	Spice Girls (Virgin)
2	Falling Into You	Celine Dion (Epic)
3	Blue Is the Colour	Beautiful South (Go! Discs)
4	Evita	Original Soundtrack (Warner Bros)
5	Travelling Without Moving	Jamiroquai (Sony S2)
6	Ocean Drive	Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)
7	The Score	Fugees (Columbia)
8	Everything Must Go	Manic Street Preachers (Epic)
9	K	Kula Shaker (Columbia)
10	Greatest Hits	Simply Red (East West)

Copyright CIN

هكذا من الاصل

■ VISUAL ART 1

Treasures for Everyone displays Britain's rescued artefacts, from the 3,400-year-old Oxborough Dirk

■ VISUAL ART 2

. . . to work by Georg Baselitz, Van Dyck and a whole host of Masters, old and new

THE TIMES

ARTS

■ THEATRE

Liberal conscience: divisions between rich and poor: perennial themes are tackled in *The Fever*

■ MUSIC

Mendelssohn at the double: Birmingham hears both piano concertos in an evening

Saved for the nation by the National Art Collections Fund, at a price: (clockwise from top left) Da Vinci's *Studies of a paw of a wolf or dog* (c 1490); Van Dyck's *Princess Elizabeth and Princess Anne* (1637); Renoir's *La Place Clichy* (c 1880)

Want to save a treasure?

As the spectacular fruits of its efforts go on show in London, **Richard Cork** finds out how Britain's biggest art charity sets about saving works from export

When the *Rokeby Venus* came up for sale in 1906, everyone feared the painting would leave Britain. Although the owner offered Velazquez's masterpiece to the nation, the asking price was a colossal £45,000. How on earth was the National Gallery to raise such a fortune, nine times more than its annual acquisitions grant?

The answer came from a doughty cluster of collectors, curators and critics, including Roger Fry and the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres. Two years before, united in their alarm over the exodus of the country's treasures, they had banded together to found the National Art Collections Fund. And the threatened loss of the *Rokeby Venus* showed how effective they could be. Within a short time, all the money for the work was raised. Four years after this spectacular coup the fund scored another by saving Holbein's *Christina of Denmark* from imminent export.

Since then the fund has grown into Britain's biggest art charity. Every year it plays an indispensable part in helping museums and other public collections throughout the country to purchase outstanding objects. More than 100,000 works of art now on view in the UK have been acquired with the fund's decisive assistance. And, as the recent saving of the Becket casket proved, they include many items inextricably bound up with our national history.

To celebrate these achievements, Christie's is staging a resplendent exhibition of works saved by the fund. Concentrating on objects acquired since 1980, the selection includes treasures from more than 50 collections and reveals their astonishing variety. They range in date from the Oxborough Dirk, a remarkably refined Bronze Age ceremonial weapon made around 1400 BC, to an exuberant abstract triptych painted by Gillian Ayres in 1990. The fund is open-minded in its response to old and new alike, and is now enjoying an exceptionally successful period. Membership has leapt by more than 40 per cent in the past two years, helping to ensure a record £2.73 million in grants made during 1995.

But there is no room for complacency. Key works have continued to leave the country since the fund's inception, including the sole painted portrait of Henry VIII securely attributed to Holbein himself. In 1962 the great Leonardo Cartoon of the *Virgin and Child with St Anne* was put up for sale by the Royal Academy, and secured for the National Gallery only after a prolonged, agonising campaign in which the fund played a central role. But if the Academy ever decided to sell its Michelangelo sculpture, even the most tenacious cash-raising initiative might well fail to prevent this superlative carving from export.

So the fund is, if possible, even more important now than it was at the beginning of the century. National Lottery money has certainly helped to save some marvellous works, not least the beautiful double-sided ink drawing by Marco Zoppo purchased last year by the British Museum for £445,000. But since the lottery cannot provide the entire cost of anything, the fund finds itself today in still greater demand to make up the shortfall.

Just how well it has helped to enrich the nation's collections is demonstrated throughout the Christie's show. In 1984 Manchester City Art Gallery bought a wonderfully impassioned Crucifixion attributed to Duccio with the aid of £500,000 from the fund. This powerful painting enables a major regional collection to show early Siennese art at its height. And the Tate Gallery acquired an equally intense 20th-century painting when it purchased Max Beckmann's claustrophobic, suspenseful *Carnival* with the fund's help in 1981.

European painting is displayed to best effect in the Great Room. Here Wright of Derby's flickering yet sternly constructed *The Iron Forge* holds its own with companions as formidable as Poussin's *The Triumph of Pan*, a tour de force of orgiastic excitement defined with the steely authority of an arch-classicist.

Not all the paintings in this room show artists at their best. Claude's *The Adoration of the Golden Calf* relies to a disappointing extent on its stilted figures, and compares very poorly with the same artist's sublime, infinitely mysterious *The Enchanted Castle* near by. But nobody could argue about the spellbinding quality of El Greco's shadowy, sensual and tantalising canvas known only as *An Allegory*, while among the portraits Nicholas de Largillière's *Ann Throckmorton as a Nun* is a quiet miracle of 18th-century French painting at its most subtle and sympathetic.

The Throckmorton canvas, purchased by the National Trust for £350,000 in 1991, is also an excellent example of the fund's belief in retaining objects whenever possible in their original settings. Largillière's portrait is preserved at Coughton Court, the Throckmorton family home. It makes far more sense there than in an anonymous museum, and for the same reason Charles Rennie Mackintosh's ebonised pine table with pearl inlay has been acquired by Hill House, the innovative family home he designed in Helensburgh near Glasgow.

By disclosing the prices of almost everything on display, the exhibition's catalogue reminds us that nothing goes cheap on the art market today. Even the Mackintosh table cost a princely £200,000, and the Becket casket was eventually sold to the Victoria and Albert Museum for a head-spinning £4.2 million. All the same, the show also proves that delightful things can be bought for far less vertiginous sums. Four years ago an unusually early ink drawing by Stanley Spencer, of a village child called Roy, was purchased for £1,500 by the enterprising Spencer Gallery in Cookham. The fund donated a third of the price.

On the whole, though, important art costs a daunting amount. Now that privately owned paintings by the finest masters are so rare, their drawings can fetch the kind of figures that would have been unimaginable to collectors in the past. When Rubens's virile ink and chalk portrait of the Earl of Arundel came up for sale in 1995, the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford was confronted by the awesome task of raising £900,000. With so little money at its own disposal, the chances of acquiring such a consummate likeness of a great English collector must have seemed slender. But with the fund's assistance, this bravura example of European draughtsmanship is now safely ensconced at Oxford, within reach of us all.

● *Treasures for Everyone is at Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (0171-839 9060) until Jan 26. Full membership of the National Art Collections Fund (0171-225 4800) costs £25, and offers many benefits including free admission to more than 170 museums, galleries and historic houses*

The burden of being well-off

THEATRE

The Fever
Ambassadors

WHEN a ravaged beggar stretches out a claw to Tony Blair, earnest thoughts about addressing the causes of poverty apparently combine with a belief in "zero tolerance", and he withholds his munificence. On the evidence of this one-person play, Wallace Shawn's reaction would be rather different. His moral life would flash before him, and a weird mixture of resentment and self-loathing would come pouring out as he alternately clutched dollars to his bosom and flung them to the winds. The beggar would probably end up finding him shelter for the night.

Yet Shawn's own affliction, which is a bad case of liberal remorse, begins to trouble me. How can I be flippant about the chasms between the well-fed and the hungry? The monologue's answer is simple. The haves will do anything — from defensive jokes about the poor to congratulating themselves on their charitable instincts, from convincing themselves that luck of birth is divine justice to using torture chambers — to protect their comforts against the have-nots.

The staging is even plainer than for Shawn's similar *Designated Mourner*, in which three actors at a table describe a world where the cultured are destroyed in the repression that follows the rising of a raging underclass.

The Canadian actress Clare Coulter sits on a chair and, her quiet, incisive voice occasionally breaking into a snarl or sardonic cackle, evokes the night that a combination of guilt and bitterness at feeling guilt drove her into a long-brewing breakdown.

Does it sound as if some Manhattan Marxist is launching into a drab parody of one of Edward Bond's dramatic sermons? Thanks to Coulter's beautifully judged performance and the articulate yet confused passions of the text, the effect is far more searching. This is a nice woman from a nice background who has visited impoverished countries, rejected the rationalisations for the economic inequality she has seen, realised that she would still resist any social change that threatened her civilised pleasures, and ended up accusing herself of being and intending to remain "irredeemably corrupt".

Clare Coulter: beautifully judged performance

Is it merely a sign of privileged defensiveness to pick holes in Shawn's case? No, for he divides the world too rigidly into rich and poor, as if no in-betweens were muddling along. He is also absurdly at odds with modern history, in and out of his native America, when he suggests that serious economic progress is impossible. Yet he and his actress touch a self-disgust that many of us try to suppress. Why don't I do more for that child in the Oxfam ad, that man in the Amnesty pamphlet? How can I face being me while they are them?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

A meal with three starters

CONCERTS

CBSO/Foster
Birmingham

ONE way to explain it would be to refer to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's recording schedules. Another way would be to claim that there is still room for eccentricity, and that if a conductor wants to combine three Weber overtures with two Mendelssohn piano concertos he can do it.

Whatever the motivation behind Lawrence Foster's Symphony Hall programme, it worked. With two or three more Weber overtures at the end, instead of Hindemith's *Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes of Carl Maria von Weber*, it would have been possibly even more effective.

In between came Stephen Hough's brilliantly stylish performances of Mendelssohn's Piano Concertos, in G minor and D minor. In the last movement of the G minor, Hough risked enough to make it seem as if it might run off the rails at any moment — an illusion but no less thrilling for that. The pianist found much romantic interest, too, in the first movement of the D minor Concerto. But not even he could deflect the suspicion that Mendelssohn left himself too little time to complete the work.

The idea with the three comparatively minor Weber overtures was evidently to make a suite of them. The quality of Foster's interpretation was in the inspired melodic phrasing above all, but also in his promotion of the rhythmic vivacity which distinguishes Weber's music at any period in his career.

GERALD LARNER

PLG Young Artists
Purcell Room

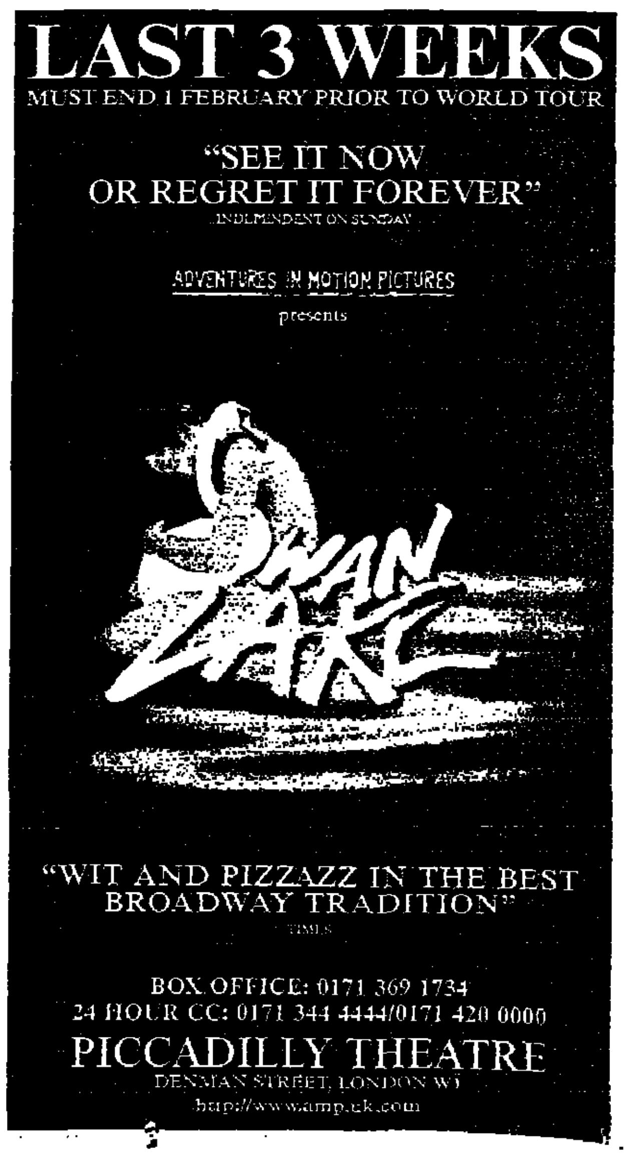
IF IT is simpler to make an impact with new music than to set oneself against a performing tradition, then Alexander Taylor made a perfect entrance, playing with his elbow. Frederic Rzewski's *Winnboro Cotton Mill Blues* is unfamiliar rather than new, but Taylor drove its machine-like rhythms with conviction.

His was an intelligently balanced programme: a première of Marina Adamia's assured Five Pieces for Piano, Martin Butler's lively Sonata and Anthony Payne's simple yet mesmerising *Song Without End*. Finnissy's "recollections" of two Gershwin songs made for a haunting ending, though Taylor was too limpid to articulate their sadness.

The repertoire most testing to a player's artistry is surely the second-rate, which was the challenge facing the guitar duo, the Katona brothers. Stars of the evening, these identical Hungarian twins kept the audience rapt throughout Piazolla's lightweight Tango Suite and Judith Bingham's slight *Santa Casa*. Here, as in every piece, the delicate perfection of the Katonas' playing electrified the music. The full extent of their art was only on display in Leo Brouwer's wonderful *Per Suonare a Due*. The work moves from a tangled atonal skein to a hilarious dialogue between the two guitars.

The intense ensemble between the Katonas is irresistible, in contrast to the piano/cello duo who shared the concert. Jamie Walton and Daniel Grinwood's programme was tough by any standard, including Colin Matthews's *Three Enigmas* and Schnittke's Sonata No 1. Walton progressed through the Matthews like an athlete, but was too physically involved to delve into its mysteries. His beautiful tone in William Walton's solo Passacaglia showed his true potential.

HELEN WALLACE

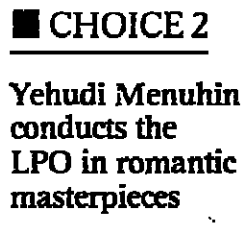

LAST 3 WEEKS
MUST END 1 FEBRUARY PRIOR TO WORLD TOUR
"SEE IT NOW
OR REGRET IT FOREVER"
INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY
ADVENTURES IN MOTION PICTURES
presents

"WIT AND PIZZAZZ IN THE BEST
BROADWAY TRADITION"
TIMES
BOX OFFICE: 0171 369 1734
24 HOUR CC: 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000
PICCADILLY THEATRE
DENMAN STREET, LONDON W1
http://www.amp.uk.com

■ CHOICE 1

Opening weekend for the London International Mime Festival

VENUES: Across London: see below for details



■ CHOICE 2

Yehudi Menuhin conducts the LPO in romantic masterpieces

VENUE: Sunday at the Barbican

THE TIMES POP ARTS

■ CHOICE 3

Pianist Joanna MacGregor leads the avant-garde fun at the SoundCircus

VENUE: Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, tomorrow

ALBUMS

Tarika mark a grim African anniversary with a hauntingly beautiful collection of songs

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

LONDON INTERNATIONAL MIME FESTIVAL. An exhilarating programme of visual and physical theatre begins tomorrow, and runs until January 26 at venues across the capital, including the South Bank, BAC, ICA and Circus Space. Highlights at the BAC include *Biancaneve*, Teatro del Carretto's marionette version of *Snow White*, and the Oddbodies with their hysterical adaptation of *Richard III*. The festival opens at the Purcell Room with Compagnie Mossoux Bonté performing *The Last Hallucinations of Lucas Cranach*. An exceptional line-up includes the London premiere of Gavin Robertson's and Andy Taylor's Edinburgh hit, *Fantastical Voyage*, and a clown version of *Romeo and Juliet* by Théâtre le Ranelagh from Paris.
Mime Festival information only (0171-637 5661). Box Office numbers: South Bank (0171-960 4242); BAC (0171-223 2223); ICA (0171-930 3647); Circus Space (0171-613 4141).

MUSIC MAESTROS. Tonight, at 7.30pm, Yan Pascal Tortelier conducts the **National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain** and Howard Shelley, piano, in Szymanowski's romantic Concert Overture, Rachmaninov's evergreen *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* and Prokofiev's *Suite from Romeo and Juliet*. On Sunday, at 7.30pm, **Yehudi Menuhin** conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra in three classic favourites: *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis* by Vaughan Williams, Bruch's Violin Concerto (soloist Rafal Zambrzycki-Payne), and Elgar's *Enigma Variations*.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight and Sunday, 7.30pm ♿

ELSEWHERE

EDINBURGH: Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo performs its irresistibly funny parodies of classics such as *Paquita* and *Swan Lake*.
Edinburgh Festival, Nicolson Street (0131-529 6000). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm ♿

HALIFAX. The 25th **Laing Seascape and Landscape** competition is one of six exhibitions opening tomorrow at the Dean Clough Galleries. In **A House and a Head**, Tom Wood further develops his exploration of the figure through his richly-textured paintings. The Conference Gallery is showing paintings by John Gledhill, entitled **Night and Day**, on the subject "man", while **Fractal Loch**, a sculptural installation by Graham Bate and Melanie Jordan, explores the mathematical chaos theory. Works by **Dean Clough Artists** can be seen in the Seminar Gallery, while the Design House Gallery is exhibiting the **RSA Student Design Awards**.
Dean Clough Galleries (01422 250250). Daily, 10am-5pm.

MANCHESTER. The pianist Joanna MacGregor teams up with the percussion quartet Ensemble Bash for the first late-night concert in the **SoundCircus** series. An eclectic programme includes music by Steve Reich, Django Bates, Frederic Rzewski and Paulinus Bozza.
Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley St (0161-907 9000). Tomorrow, 10.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Anthony d'Offay: Anselm Kiefer — I Hold All Indias in My Hand (0171-499 4100) ... **British Museum:** Japanese Arts (0171-636 1555) ... **Design Museum:** Doing a Dyson (0171-378 6055) ... **Festival Hall:** The Scenic Eye: Visual Art and the Theatre (0171-960 4242) ... **National:** Making and Meaning: Rubens's Landscapes (0171-747 2885) ... **Royal Academy:** The Folio Society 50th Anniversary Awards (0171-439 7438) ... **Tate:** Works from the Ted Power Collection (0171-887 8000) ... **V & A:** American Photography 1890-1965 (0171-938 8349/8441)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

■ **ALL OF YOU MINE.** The refurbished theatre, in a pub renamed the Fringe and Firkin (geddit?), re-opens with a new play by the excellent Richard Cameron, set in a Yorkshire mining village where, as usual, guilty secrets emerge. Simon Usher directs.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm.

■ **ELSINORE.** Robert Lepage's astonishing performance as Hamlet and everyone else in his imaginative, technically inventive production.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Last performances today and tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.15pm.

☐ **MARRY ME A LITTLE.** Clever gathering of Sondheim out-takes, agreeably sung by Rebecca Front and Clive Carter in a 65-minute show.
Bridewell, Bride Lane, EC4 (0171-936 3456). Last performances today and tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm.

■ **THE OFFICIAL TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES BROTHERS.** Another West End showing for the cult songfest by guys in black glasses. David Leland directs.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 6pm and 9pm. Until January 18.

◪ **SCROOGE:** Anthony Newley back on the West End stage singing the title role in the Leslie Bricusse musical.
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-636 2295). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

■ **SHOPPING AND F***ING:** Mark Ravenhill's powerful drama about a distressed generation, rotted by economic and sexual abuse, returns for four weeks. Max Stafford-Clark directs.
Circle Space, Royal Court Theatre Upstairs at the Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Mon-Sat, 8.45pm. Until February 1.

◪ **A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE.** Jessica Lange makes her West End debut in Peter Hall's production of the Tennessee Williams classic.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **TALKING HEADS:** Maggie Smith and Margaret Tyzack performing two monologues written and directed by Alan Bennett.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

☐ **TROILUS AND CRESSIDA.** Ian Judge's busy production. Victoria Hamilton's Cressida and some other performances enliven a long evening.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today and tomorrow, 7pm; mat Sat, 1.30pm. In rep.

◪ **WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?** Diana Rigg and David Suchet in Howard Davies's powerful Almeida production of Albee's searing play.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.15pm. Until March 22.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (0171-369 1733) ... ☐ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged):** Criterion (0171-369 1737) ... ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner:** Duchess (0171-494 5070) ... ☐ **Grease:** Cambridge (0171-494 5080) ... ◪ **An Inspector Calls:** Garrick (0171-494 5085) ... ☐ **Jolson:** Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) ... ☐ **Martin Guerre:** Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) ... ◪ **Oliver!:** Palladium (0171-494 5020) ... ◪ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) ... ◪ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

BEYOND THE CLOUDS (18): Four tales about love from octogenarian Michelangelo Antonioni. An art-house curiosity, with John Malkovich, Jeanne Moreau and Marcello Mastroianni.
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **THE MIRROR HAS TWO FACES** (PG): Barbra Streisand directs and stars in this absurd, glossy comedy-romance about teachers experimenting with a sexless marriage. With Jeff Bridges.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

ROBINSON IN SPACE (PG): More sprightly, visually idiosyncratic musings on English life from Patrick Keiller.
ICA Cinema (0171-930 3647)

◆ **SOME MOTHER'S SON** (15): Powerful fictional story, inspired by the Maze Prison hunger strike, with Helen Mirren. Director, Terry George.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

STARMAKER (18): Rogue fleeces Sicilians with hopes of screen work. Dawdling drama from *Cinema Paradiso* director Giuseppe Tornatore.
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

CURRENT

◆ **MATILDA** (PG): Exuberant telling of Roald Dahl's subversive tale about a precocious girl (Mara Wilson) who triumphs over pesky adults. Danny DeVito co-stars and directs.
Odeon Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **101 DALMATIANS** (U): Glenn Close knocks spots off the dogs in the live-action edition of the cartoon classic. With Jeff Daniels and Joely Richardson.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

◆ **SLEEPERS** (15): Reform school inmates avenge themselves on a sadistic guard. Overblown tale with an impressive cast (Kevin Bacon, Brad Pitt, Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman). Director, Barry Levinson.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SURVIVING PICASSO** (15): Anthony Hopkins as Picasso the womaniser: an interesting film, but an unsympathetic hero.
Minema (0171-235 4225) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **Minema** (0171-235 4225) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

Tarika create a special kind of harmony with their new album, says **Nigel Williamson**

African war and peace

Fifty years ago the French brutally suppressed an uprising in Madagascar using Senegalese troops. An estimated 80,000 people died, many more were tortured and a legacy of racism lives on to this day. The Senegalese have been demonised and Malagasy parents routinely warn their childeren that unless they behave, "the blacks" (west Africans are darker-skinned than most local tribes) will eat them alive.

On the anniversary of these tragic events, an extraordinary musical project bringing together Malagasy and Senegalese musicians has attempted to heal the wounds of history. Last year Hanitra Rasoanaivo, the London-based singer whose band Tarika has enjoyed considerable success across America and Europe with its warm, lilting African rhythms, returned home to learn more about her past.

WORLD MUSIC

"I'd never done anything like this before," says Rasoanaivo. "I was just happy making music. But as I developed as a songwriter, I discovered that certain subjects were taboo and I wanted to sing about them."

She travelled to the remotest parts of Madagascar, collecting stories of the 1947 uprising from eye-witnesses and the archives. What she discovered goes to the heart of racism and exploitation everywhere. "My grandmother, my grandfather, my aunts and uncles all told me the story when I was small and I was really scared. If you are bad the Senegalese will come and eat you. It was the classic colonial divide-and-rule tactic. If it is blacker than you, it is nasty and inhuman and does these terrible things. I had to investigate the story behind this."

Tarika have brought together Senegalese and Malagasy musicians in a bid to heal the wounds of history

The resulting album, *Son Egal*, is a remarkable collection of songs, haunting and moving in its plea for reconciliation and tolerance, tough and clear-sighted in its condemnation of corruption and racial hatred. Simon Emmerson of the Afro-Celt Sound System was recruited to produce the album, and in a symbolic act of reconciliation, members of the band led by Senegalese star Baaba Maal also play on it.

The album is the most impressive chapter yet in Rasoanaivo's rags to riches story. Home was very poor and only now, with the proceeds of her success, is she able to supply electricity to the family house. There is still no running water. "It is a very traditional, basic life," she says. "Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world, brought to its knees by corrupt politicians and businessmen." Somehow she was given an education, studied languages at university and ended up working as a translator at the Madagascar Embassy in London. Six years ago, friends heard Rasoanaivo and her sister Noro singing in the kitchen and suggested that they take up music professionally. At first they laughed, but a band, initially known as Tarika Sammy (the now shortened name means simply "the group"), took shape. Swiftly their blend of shimmering five-part harmonies, traditional instruments and energetic rhythms established Tarika as one of the hits of the roots music scene from America to Japan. In Europe the album looks set to become one of the surprise successes of the year. In Madagascar it is certain to stir up huge controversy.

"I heard some incredible stories from people who had been harshly tortured," says Rasoanaivo. "A lot of people told me not to do the album. My parents thought I was mad and it's going to stir a lot of things up. But I had to do it. We've been keeping this hatred inside ourselves and it is time for reconciliation."

● Son Egal, *by Tarika is released on Xenophile (XENO4042) on Monday*

Sounds of the swamp

NEW BLUES ALBUMS

LOUISIANA isn't necessarily the first place to look for the blues: Chicago and Memphis both stake stronger claims. Yet as the collection *Deep Harmonica Blues* (Ace CD-CHD 604) shows, producer J.D. Miller was, in the 1950s and early 1960s, able to gather together a superb roster of so called "swamp blues" artists including **Lightnin' Slim**, **Slim Harpo**, **Lazy Lester** and **Whispering Smith**. The mixture of nasal, Jimmy Reed-like vocals and brilliant harp blowing is irresistible.

Keeping the Louisiana tradition alive today is guitarist **Larry Garner** who displays his impressive songwriting skills allied with mature vocals and some stunning blues licks on his latest album, *Baton Rouge* (Verve Gitanes 529 467-2). But if it's Chicago you still hanker after, then veteran harp player **Little Mack Simmons** is your man. A club fixture for years, he has never sounded so good as he does on *High & Lonesome* (St George STG 7704), a remarkable homage to the early days of postwar Chicago blues.

Go clubbing today, and you're more likely to encounter artists such as **W.C. Clark** and **Albert Washington**, who combine soul and blues. Guitarist Clark played behind stars like Stevie Ray Vaughan, but moves centre stage for *Texas Soul* (Black Top BT1131) and provides the best version of Willie Nelson's *Funny How Time Slips Away* since fellow Texan Joe Hinton back in the 1960s. It is also good to see the return of Washington, on *Step It Up and Go* (Iris ICD1005), an album newly distributed over here. He cut a string of great singles a decade or so ago, and has lost none of his memorable vocal gifts.

The thriving British blues scene is celebrated with a clutch of new releases, the best of which is the debut by vocalist **Earl Green**, who uses a variety of sidemen including US guitarist Joe Louis Walker and Surbiton harmonica star Lee Sankey, for an atmospheric and adventurous set, *Feel The Fire* (Abacabe ABACA CD002). Runners up are **Paul Lamb and The Kingsnakes** with *She's A Killer* (Indigo IGOCXD 503), on which blues harp maestro Lamb and the vastly underrated guitarist John Whitehill continue to reinforce the band's already considerable reputation.

Finally, an American institution. **The Drifters** and their former lead singer, **Ben E. King**, have received the red carpet treatment from Sequel records with a 15-volume anthology of their work, stretching from the Clyde McPhatter glory days of the early 1950s (RSA CD 803) and cuts like *Money Honey*, through the *Under The Boardwalk* years (RSA CD 834), up to King's collaboration with the Average White Band in the mid-1970s (RSA CD 856). Plaudits here for compiler and researcher Peter Burns.

JOHN CLARKE

ART GALLERIES

PARKIN GALLERY [illegible] WINTER EXHIBITION [illegible] 0171 [illegible]

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Ton't 7.30 THE PEARL FISHERS Tomor 7.30 THE MIKADO

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Office & Standby info. Tickets available on the day. The Royal Opera Ton't 6.30 Tue 7.30 (Last Night) CHERUBIN. The Royal Ballet Tomor 2.00 (First Performance) & 7.30 Wed Thur 7.30 THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 0171 960 4242 English National Ballet THE NUTCRACKER Until 11 Jan '97 Eves 7.30pm & Mat 11 Jan 2.30pm COPPELIA 13-18 Jan Eves 7.30, Mat 18 Jan 2.30

ANTIQUE & ART FAIRS

WEST LONDON Antiques & Fine Art Fair Kensington Town Hall, Hornton St, W8 January 9 - 12 [illegible] Penman Fairs Enq: 0171 937 0065

THEATRES

ADELPHI "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Wall St Journal SUNSET BOULEVARD Winner of 7 Tony Awards including BEST MUSICAL Starring PETULA CLARK 24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 344 0055 (bkg fee) GRP BOOKINGS 413 3302 (bkg fee) No booking fee for Adelphi Box Office Callers Recorded information 0171 379 8884 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

ALBERY THEATRE 0171 369 1730 cc 0171 344 4444 The Royal Shakespeare Company production of THE CHERRY ORCHARD by Anton Chekhov Adrian Noble's glorious production Independent Eves 7.30 Mats Thur & Sat 2.00 LAST 3 WEEKS PRIOR TO NATIONAL TOUR

Albery Theatre 0171 369 1740 (no bkg fee) Ticketmaster 344 4444 (bkg fee) EDDIE IZZARD NEIL MULLARKEY STEPHEN FROST SUKI WEBSTER ONE WORD IMPROV Jan 29th-Mar 16th Tue-Sun 8pm Jan 30th at 7pm

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6003, cc bkg fee 344 4444 Grps 0800 614 903 BEST ACTRESS DIANA RIGG 1996 Eve Std Drama Awards DIANA RIGG DAVID SUCHET in EDWARD ALBEE'S WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF Dir by Howard Davies "A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT" Std Mon-Sat 7.15pm Sat Mat 2.15pm

APOLLO 494 5070/344 4444 DO DRINK & JIVE! THE PERFECT WEST END PARTY THE OFFICIAL TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES BROTHERS Special season must end 18 Jan Many perfs sold out

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 416 6075/413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's STARLIGHT EXPRESS THE FASTEST SHOW ON EARTH White knuckle runs 19 45 daily Tue & Sat 3pm Tickets from £12.50

CAMBRIDGE 494 5080/416 6060 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Groups 494 5454 416 6075/413 3321/436 5588 GREASE "Fast, furious, thrilling & fun, fun, fun" D Mirror TICKETS AVAILABLE APPLY DAILY TO BOX OFFICE Mon-Sat 7.30pm Wed & Sat Mat 3pm

CHAPEL OF LOVE-PICCADILLY CIRCUS 0171 287 4433/420 0000/344 4444 "THE WEDDING OF THE CENTURY" The Daily Telegraph JOEY & GINA'S WEDDING Book now and be part of the hilarious extravaganza. Price includes three live music and endless [illegible] buffet. Special party rates Tue-Fri 7.45, Sat 8.30, Sun 6.00 VERY SPECIAL RATES FOR STUDENTS, SENIOR CITIZENS AND FAMILIES OF FOUR

COMEDY THEATRE 0171 369 1731 cc 344 4444 (bkg fee) 420 0000 Eves 8 Thurs Mat 3 Sat Mat 5 MAGGIE SMITH brilliant beyond belief [illegible] MARGARET TYZACK "genuinely moving" [illegible] TALKING HEADS Written & directed by ALAN BENNETT wonderfully touching and funny [illegible] LIMITED SEASON

CRITERION 369 1737 344 4444 REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged) All 37 Plays in 97 Minutes "Hilarious" Times Mats Thur at 3 Sat at 5 Sun at 4 Eves at 8pm THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged) Tuesday at 8pm

DOMINION 416 6060 420 0000 344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 416 6075 312 1979 LONDON'S CHRISTMAS CRACKER! ANTHONY NEWLEY SCROOGE THE MUSICAL "BREATHLESS SOARAWAY SHOW - MAGNIFICENT" D Exp LIMITED SEASON TO 1 FEB Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 3pm

DOMINION 0171 656 1888/0990 [illegible] 420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 416 6075/312 1997 0990 614903 The Magic comes alive on stage DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST A NEW MUSICAL Previews from Apr 29 now booking

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL [illegible] cc bkg fee 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3321/312 8000 MISS SAIGON "THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME" NOW IN ITS 8TH EXTRAORDINARY YEAR! Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE, POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS 0171 494 5060 (BKG FEE)

DUCHESS cc 0171 494 5075 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee) 420 0000 (bkg fee) [illegible] Eves 8pm Wed mat 3pm Sat 5pm & 8.30 "A SAUCY COMEDY" E Std NOW IN ITS 6th YEAR DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER "Gloriously Outrageous" T Out

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/312 [illegible] EWAN HOOPER JAMES SIMMONS Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt "The most thrilling and chilling play for years" D Mail NOW IN ITS 8TH YEAR Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm Running time 2hrs

To advertise in this section please call the Entertainments team on: 0171 680 6222 or fax 0171 481 9313

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/312 1990 (no bkg fee) Some Experiences You Never Forget WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS The Royal National Theatre Production PIP DONAGHY SUZANNE BERTISH and BARRY STANTON JB Priestley's AN INSPECTOR CALLS "THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN" D Mail "One of the most intoxicating, theatrically imaginative experiences of the 1990s" Eve Stand "TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUNNING DRAMA" D Tel Mon-Fri 7.45 Sat 5.00 & 8.15 Wed mat 2.30

GIELGUD THEATRE 0171 494 5065/0171 312 1990 BOB HOSKINS JAMES CALLIS in OLD WICKED SONGS directed by Elijah Moshinsky "A RIVETING NIGHT" Eve Std Mon-Sat 7.30pm Thurs mat 2.30pm Sat mat 4pm Running time 2hrs 15 mins SEASON ENDS 11 JAN

HAYMARKET 930 8800 (no bkg fee) 344 4444/420 0000 (with bkg fee) Mon-Sat 7.45pm Mats Thur & Sat 3pm JESSICA LANGE "MAGNIFICENT" NOW TOBY STEPHENS IMOGEN STUBBS "ELECTRIC" D Express "EXCELLENT" Independent "Tennessee Williams' poetic masterpiece" Obs A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE directed by Peter Hall "STUPENDOUS & UNFORGETTABLE" S Tms

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (no fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/436 5588 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Directed by HAROLD PRINCE NOW BKG TO MAY 97 Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1.50 serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 494 5454 "A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT" Mail "ROBERT LINDSAY'S FAGIN IS FULL OF CHARM, WARMTH & GLEEFUL CRIMINALITY. HE'S A HOOT" D Exp IN OLIVER! 3RD IRREPRESSIBLE YEAR "LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE" S Times Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS

LYCEUM cc 0171 656 1806 0990 500 800/344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 416 6075 TIM RICE & ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR "Sends Shivers Racing Down The Spine" D Telegraph Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3 (no bkg fee for personal callers at the Lyceum box office 10am-8pm) Concessions for midweek matinees are bookable in advance

LYRIC 0171 494 5045 cc 420 0100/344 4444 (bkg fee) "THE MOST UNPRETENTIOUSLY ENJOYABLE SHOW IN LONDON" Tms BY JEEVES THE ALAN AYCKBOURN & ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER MUSICAL "...HAD THE AUDIENCE BUCKLING UP WITH LAUGHTER" Ind Eves 7.45 Mats Weds & Sat 3pm Concessions available

MERMAID 0171 236 2211 "NOT TO BE MISSED" Times Jean Baptiste Thierree Victoria Chaplin LE CERCLE INVISIBLE Must End 12 Jan Tues-Sat 7.30 Sun 4 SOME TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252 Grps 0171 620 0741. 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000 OLIVIER Ton't 7.15, Tomor 2.00 & 7.15 GUYS AND DOLLS Music and lyrics by Frank Loesser. Book by Jo Swerling & Abe Burrows. Ton't 6pm PLATFORM: JEANETTE WINTERSON LYTTELTON Ton't 7.30, Tomor 2.15 & 7.30 (FINAL PERFS) ELSINORE Variations on Shakespeare's Hamlet. A new solo work by Robert Lepage. Ton't 9.30pm PLATFORM: ROBERT LEPAGE TALKS TO EYREON ELSINORE. COTTESLOE Ton't 7.00 (PRESS NIGHT), Tomor 2.30 & 7.30 LIGHT SHINING IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Caryl Churchill PLATFORM: Terrace Café, 3pm Tea & RUNYON READINGS

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/436 5588 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/T S ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT. Bars open at 6.45 LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

OLD VIC 928 7616/312 8034 THE PETER HALL COMPANY Simon Ward Carol Drinkwater Deborah Grant Robert East Barbara Murray Richard Todd OSCAR WILDE'S MASTERPIECE AN IDEAL HUSBAND "GREAT & GLORIOUS" S. Tms Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 LAST 3 WEEKS

OLD VIC 0171 928 7616 cc 420 0000 (no bkg fee) TIMOTHY WEST SAMUEL WEST and GARY WALDHORN HENRY IV PARTS I and II 28 Jan - 22 Feb 1997

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 413 3311. THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL LES MISERABLES NOW IN ITS 11TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee) BEST MUSICAL Olivier/Drama Awards Plays & Players/Ivor Novello Awards WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS "...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail 10TH TRIUMPHANT YEAR Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3pm Sat 4pm

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734/344 4444/0171 420 0000 (24hrs) "See it now or regret it forever" IOS ADVENTURES IN MOTION PICTURES PRESENTS SWAN LAKE "the best night out in London" Standard "Magical, fantastic, wonderful... the stuff of dreams" D. Tel Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 LAST 4 WEEKS

PLAYHOUSE 0171 839 4401 cc 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee) JANET McTEER OWEN TEALE A DOLL'S HOUSE by Henrik Ibsen a version by Frank McGuinness directed by Anthony Page Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Sat 2.30 MUST CLOSE TOMORROW

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5987 First Call 420 0000 cc 344 4444 Grps 420 0200 freephone/0800 614903 "HOT FROM BROADWAY, AND I MEAN SMOKIN'. ENOUGH ENERGY TO ELECTRIFY A CITY." D Mail GRAMMY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE THE SONGS OF LEIBER & STOLLER Directed by Jerry Zaks "AMERICAN GRAFFITI MEETS WEST SIDE STORY" E Std "FRESH & SEXY, TOUCHING & TRUE" D Telegraph Mon-Sat 8pm, Thu & Sat Mats 3pm

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 420 0100 cc 344 4444 Groups 420 0200 "A MUSICAL MASTERPIECE" Int.Her.Trib "REAL POWER & PASSION A BLOCKBUSTER" D. Tel "A BIG MAGNIFICENT EPIC MUSICAL, A GREAT EVENING OUT" S. Times MARTIN GUERRE BOUBLIL & SCHONBERG'S NEW MUSICAL RETURNS WITH A VENGEANCE" Std Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

QUEEN'S (bkg fee) 494 5040/ 344 4444 Grps 494 5454/436 5588 GENE WILDER "Puts the Gene into genius" D.Mail in NEIL SIMON'S LAUGHTER ON THE 23rd FLOOR "Funniest night out in London" News Of The World Eves 8pm, Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4pm

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON (0171 638 8891) BARBICAN: TROILUS AND CRESSIDA Ton't 7.00 THE PIT: THE LEARNED LADIES Ton't 7.15 STRATFORD (01789 295623/ cc 0171 413 1452) RST: MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Ton't 7.30 SWAN: HENRY VIII Ton't 7.30 TOP: THE MYSTERIES: THE CREATION Ton't 7.30

ROYAL COURT 0171 565 5000 cc 420 0100 (24hrs) Downstairs (Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane) THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE by Martin McDonagh. Until 18 Jan. Mon-Sat 7.30, Sat mat 3.30. Upstairs (Ambassadors, West St) SHOPPING AND F***ING by Mark Ravenhill Mon-Sat 8.45, until 1 Feb. THE FEVER by Wallace Shawn. Mon-Sat 7.00, until 25 Jan

SADLERS WELL'S at the PEACOCK THEATRE 0171 314 8800 SLAVA SNOW SHOW Until 30 Jan Only

SAVOY THEATRE 0171 836 8888 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (no bkg fees) Groups 0800 614 803 GRIFF RHYS JONES KEVIN McNALLY SARA CROWE PLUNDER Ben Travers' riotous farce "a fantastically entertaining evening" Sun Exp. Evgs 7.30 Mats Thurs & Sat 2.30

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 0171 413 3588 (24hrs/no bkg fee) Groups 0171 413 3321 "Breathtaking" S. Times "Spectacular" F.T "Brilliant" Observer TOMMY PAUL KEATING as Tommy KIM WILDE as Mrs Walker Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm (all seats £15) & 8.30 pm, Sat 3pm & 8.30pm LIMITED DAILY AVAILABILITY

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 Eves 8, Tue 2.45, Sat 5 & 8 AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP 45th YEAR

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 436 5588 "BUDDY" The Buddy Holly Story "BRILLIANT" Sun "BUDDY" "WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel "BUDDY" Tues-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sats 5.00 & 8.30 Sunday 4.00 ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF 8th ELECTRIFYING YEAR Now booking 'til October 4

VICTORIA PALACE BO & cc (no fee) 0171 834 1317 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/312 1996/420 0000 Groups 0171 312 1995 /0171 436 5588 (no fee) WINNER 1996 OLIVIER AWARDS BEST MUSICAL "JOLSON" WITH BRIAN CONLEY "A RESOUNDING HIT" Sunday Telegraph Evgs, Tues to Sat 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Extra special ½ price mat Thurs at 3.00 starring Allan Stewart 12 weeks 'till London engagement ends prior to World Tour

Wembley Arena 0181 900 1234, 0171 420 1000 THE SPECTACULAR RETURN OF MICHAEL FLATLEY LORD OF THE DANCE "Breathtaking" N.O.W. "The show of the Nineties" E.Std 7-12, 15-18 Jan. Performance at 8.00pm

WYNDHAMS 369 1736/344 4444 BEST COMEDY EVE STD AWARDS "ART" ALBERT FINNEY TOM COURTENAY KEN STOTT A new play by Yasmina Reza Trans by Christopher Hampton "The perfect West End play" IoS Eves 8, Mats Wed 3, Sat 5, Sun 5

[مكبر من الاصل]

TO ADVERTISE CALL: 0171 680 6800

EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT

FAX: 0171 782 7899

FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY

[illegible]

MSc Programme Information Systems

This is an exciting course with an excellent international reputation aimed at IS consultants, managers and prospective managers who wish to design, implement and manage information systems within their own or client companies.

It combines business/IT relevance and academic rigour with flexibility which enables you to choose your study and develop your own business skills and career aspirations. The course focuses on industry use of emergent technologies including:

- Data Warehousing
- Multimedia
- Electronic commerce
- Object Oriented Technologies

Places available for January 20th, February & March 1997

For [illegible] 0181-547 7899, Fax 0181-547 [illegible] Email MID [illegible] write to Post[illegible] School of Information Systems, Kingston University, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2EE quoting ref ST[illegible]

KINGSTON UNIVERSITY

Quality Courses Quality Education

Kingston University's mission is to support all sectors of the economy by the development of individuals and organisations through quality career-oriented higher education, advanced training and research

---

ROEHAMPTON INSTITUTE LONDON

An Institute of the University of Surrey

Part Time MSc/Graduate Diploma in

Strategic Training and Development

Investing in Skills to Make Training Pay

We offer an innovative evening programme focused on the needs of trainers and organisations to integrate training investment with the needs of the business. This is combined with the development of personal competence – giving you **highly marketable skills** and a **University of Surrey degree.** We offer IPD Membership, APL/APEL provision and Tax Relief eligibility.

Programme commences September 1997.

The programme covers: ■ research skills ■ labour market strategies ■ effective learning and development ■ strategies for organisational learning ■ corporate strategy and performance ■ consultancy skills

For further information contact: Jo Shuttleworth, Faculty Registry Office: Roehampton Institute London, Southlands College, Wimbledon Parkside, London SW19 5NN. Tel: 0181-392 3094 Fax: 0181-392 3093.

ROEHAMPTON INSTITUTE LONDON, AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER, EXISTS TO ADVANCE AND DEVELOP HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP.

---

organisational transformation

action learning

personal development

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH LONDON

MA Management Practice

The management qualification that's different

A traditional diet of lectures, seminars and essays doesn't suit everyone. That's why we're offering an innovative course for senior managers who need something different.

The programme provides an opportunity for senior managers to work together in action learning sets and draws on extensive research and development by the MCI in the area of senior management standards.

Developed for busy managers who need to organise their studies to fit in with their working lives, a flexible timetable of workshops and practitioner seminars is provided. You'll be encouraged to build on your own experience, draw on appropriate academic theory and focus on your own *personal development.*

Above all, *organisational transformation* is a key objective. By examining real business issues, we aim to help you fine tune your skills to see real, measurable results in your organisation.

Next intake in late February

To find out more contact the Management Development Unit:

Tel: 0171 753 5050 Fax: 0171 753 5093

e-mail: c.price@unl.ac.uk

HELPING STUDENTS IMPROVE THEIR FUTURES

The University of Reading

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST ARRIVALS!

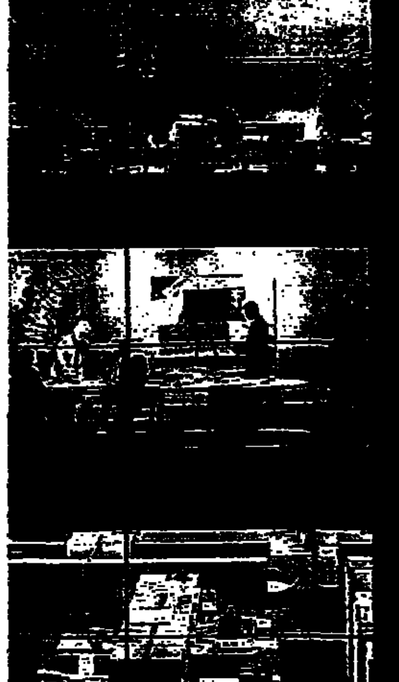
Already renowned for our excellent MBA Programmes, we can now offer additional flexibility to suit the discerning executive. Designed for busy managers, the Masters Strategic Option and Corporate Governance Modules provide the optimum means of tackling those crucial issues which all organisations face, by providing:

- Powerful executive skills
- Expert coaching with your peers
- *Monthly 1-day seminars over 3-5 months*
- Optional credits towards your MBA

Naturally, you'll want to know more, so why not attend one of our FREE introductory workshops?

Contact: The Management Unit,
The University of Reading, Building 22,
London Road, Reading RG1 5AQ.
Tel: 01189 318180. Fax: 01189 316539.
E-Mail: Mgt-Unit@reading.ac.uk.
URL: http://www.rdg.ac.uk/MGT

THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE COURSE FROM MANCHESTER. WHEN REACHING THE TOP IS NOT FAR ENOUGH.



For some people, reaching the dizzy heights of 'Executive' status is acclaim enough.

However, if you're one whose career aspirations aim even higher, then the Senior Executive Course (SEC) at Manchester Business School can prove invaluable.

Founded over 20 years ago, the course has been developed to ensure total relevance to today's business environment and is now regarded as one of the finest strategic management courses in the world.

Designed specifically for senior managers with at least 10 years management experience, the SEC is a demanding, three week intensive course, involving 'real life' projects.

For more information on the SEC or any of the other leading management courses at Manchester Business School, telephone Pam Ogden on +44 (0)161-275 6396 or fax on +44 (0)161-275 6532.

E-mail: P.Ogden@fs2.mbs.ac.uk
WWW: http://www.mbs.ac.uk

1997 COURSE DATES:
4 MAY - 24 MAY, 7 SEPTEMBER - 27 SEPTEMBER

MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

PROMOTING QUALITY TEACHING AND RESEARCH

KINGSTON BUSINESS SCHOOL

Master of Business Administration

Develop your skills as a manager - with Kingston's well-established and highly regarded programme.

Programmes start in February and September.

Open Learning

2 years of individual and group study, with intensive weekend tuition once a month.

Evening

A 2 year programme of evening study, with weekly attendance.

For further details contact us on 0181-547 7120 or by fax on 0181-547 7452

Our next Open Evening 22nd January 1997 6pm-8pm

Our next Interview Date 24th January 1997

KINGSTON UNIVERSITY

Quality Courses Quality Education

Kingston University's mission is to support all sectors of the economy by the development of individuals and organisations through quality career-oriented higher education, advanced training and research

---

As one of Europe's leading Business Schools, Warwick is internationally acclaimed for excellence in management teaching. It topped The Times Good University Guide 1996 in Business and Management for the fourth year in succession and is top-rated as 'excellent' for teaching quality by the Higher Education Funding Council.

WARWICK BUSINESS SCHOOL

Spend three refreshing days at the cutting edge...

Sustaining Advantage
- Innovation and Change

Transforming Performance
- Beyond BPR

Creating Global Capabilities
- Cohesion and Networks

Managing Relationships
- Co-operation and Conflict

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT REFRESHER COURSE
Sunday 27 April - Wednesday 30 April 1997

For full details of this intensive three day course, contact:

Sue Law,
Warwick Business School,
University of Warwick,
Coventry CV4 7AL,
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 1203 528196
Fax: +44 (0) 1203 523719
E-mail: schsl@wbs.warwick.ac.uk

Ashridge – developing strategy

Real-world

Thought-provoking

Results-driven

Ashridge has an outstanding international reputation for helping improve managerial and business performance through its executive education programmes – including a world-renowned MBA – and its management research and consultancy activities. A major development programme is the

Strategic Management Programme

- ◆ Develops vision and enhances the leadership skills needed to work through strategic change
- ◆ Supports team- and business unit leaders in formulating value-adding strategies
- ◆ Above all, ensures *implementation* of action plans.

Available four times per year.

To find out more, please contact: *Ashridge Information Desk*
T: +44 (0)1442 841000 • F: +44 (0)1442 841036
e-mail: info@ashridge.org.uk • Internet: http://www.ashridge.org.uk
or write to:

Ashridge • Ashridge Management College • Berkhamsted • Herts • HP4 1NS • England

Ashridge

– the international centre for management and organization development –

The Leeds University MBA Part-Time Programmes

THE EXECUTIVE MBA for middle and senior managers is organised around a series of three-day modules with a flexibility of timing and choice to suit busy management schedules. This two year part-time programme starts three times a year in January, April and October. In addition to the generic Executive MBA, an Executive MBA (Health & Social Services) and an Executive MBA (Transport Management) are offered.

THE EVENING MBA involves summer and autumn school weeks as well as evening attendance each week. As with the Executive MBA this two year part-time programme brings together managers from a variety of backgrounds, forming valuable network links. You can next join the Evening programme in January 1997.

For further information please contact The MBA Office, by telephone or fax 0113 233 2610, or write to us at Leeds University Business School, 11 Blenheim Terrace, Leeds LS2 9JT; or email to MBAEnq@bes.leeds.ac.uk

---

THE UNIVERSITY OF READING
Management Unit

OPEN LEARNING PROGRAMMES

- **MBA or selected modules,**
  e.g. Masters Strategic Option, Corporate Governance
- **Diploma in Management**
- **Certificate in Management**

Open Learning works because Managers have the time necessary to compare their work performance to best practice and change how they operate. **The Programmes offer:**

- Flexibility
- Job related assignments
- Monthly practical workshops
- Full tutorial support
- Updatable modules
- Continuous assessment
- Frequent start dates throughout the year

*Why not attend one of our **FREE** introductory workshops?*

For more details, please contact: The Management Unit,
The University of Reading, Building 22, London Road, Reading RG1 5AQ.
Tel: 0118-931 8180 (24 Hrs) Fax: 0118-931 6539.
E-Mail: Mgt-Unit@reading.ac.uk. URL: http://www.rdg.ac.uk/MGT

The Cranfield MBA

Your passport to the world of business

Cranfield UNIVERSITY
School of Management

The Cranfield MBA is AMBA accredited and rated "excellent" by the Higher Education Funding Council. But the quality of our programmes can best be judged by the quality and progress of our graduates. There are now nearly 4,000 of them working in 80 countries around the world. To find out more come to our next

Open Evening

Wednesday 15th January at the Institute of Directors, London
5.00pm-7.30pm

For more information and a brochure contact: Maureen Williams, Cranfield School of Management, Cranfield, Bedford, England MK43 0AL.
Tel: + 44 (0)1234 751122. Fax: + 44 (0)1234 751806.
Email: m.williams@cranfield.ac.uk
Internet: http://www.cranfield.ac.uk/som

Cranfield University is an exempt charity offering a centre of excellence for research and education.

Is There Room In Your Business Plan For Ethical, Social And Environmental Responsibility?

Are you a manager who believes that your responsibility for your working environment doesn't begin and end at your office door?

Does the organisation you represent need and want to develop more socially aware management strategies and methods of doing business within the community? And do you believe that any commitment must extend globally, to all those on whom your business operations impact?

Do you believe that businesses approaching the new millennium must strive to preserve and develop a principled response to ethical issues and social and environmental awareness, if they are to profit in the long term?

If you can instinctively answer 'yes' to the questions above, then we can offer you an opportunity to develop your career and the future success of your organisation with an **MSc IN RESPONSIBILITY AND BUSINESS PRACTICE.** The Centre for Action Research in Professional Practice in the School of Management at The University of Bath, in collaboration with the New Academy of Business, an independent educational body recently founded by Anita Roddick, has developed a two year part time workshop-based course - starting in March 1997, for those with instincts such as yours.

So if you're a person who's already asking challenging questions about how modern business is conducted, we'd like to hear from you.

To find out more, contact Wendy Middleton, quoting REFERENCE ST T?

Centre for Action Research in Professional Practice (CARPP), School of Management, University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY, UK

Tel: +44 1225 [illegible] Fax: +44 1225 [illegible] Email: [illegible]@bath.ac.uk or see our brochure on the Internet at http://www.bath.ac.uk/carpp/msc.htm

UNIVERSITY OF BATH
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Advancing Learning and Knowledge in Association with Business and Industry

---

MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT

A management qualification programme from Middlesex University Business School will help you develop new executive skills and enhance your *career prospects. Come along next week to our Open* Evening and discover how we can help you go further.

- MBA
- Masters qualifications include: Economics, Financial Management, Human Resource Management, Marketing, Tourism and Hospitality Management
- PGDip Law/CPE

0181 362 6882

or write: **Postgraduate Admissions (ref C973A), The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4BT.**

MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

OPEN EVENING
15 JANUARY
5.30 - 7.30pm

MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY

University of Hull MBA in London

Places still available for February 1997

- Specialisations: Management and Marketing Management
- Full-time or Part-time study options
- Greenwich Diploma in Management Studies (Pre-MBA) also available
- February, June, October and enrolments

Greenwich College
Meridian House, Royal Hill,
Greenwich, London SE10 8RT.
Tel: 0181-853 4484
www:greenwich-college.ac.uk

EASTER COURSES AT Hertford & Jesus Colleges OXFORD

A LEVEL & GCSE

Cherwell Tutors long established Easter Course. Intensive tuition in a demanding yet stimulating and friendly environment.

TEL: 01865-242670 FAX: 01865-791761

LANGUAGE COURSES

STUDY LANGUAGES IN EUROPE

Language courses abroad, for business or pleasure, all ages - including SPANISH AND CULTURE IN SEVILLE. We can help you find the course to meet your personal requirements

SIBS Ltd, West Wing,
Fen Drayton House
Fen Drayton, Cambs, CB4 5SW
Tel 01954 231956,Fax 01954 232284

TEFL

Qualify to teach English to foreign students

TRINITY CERT in TESOL/TEFL

4 week full-time course starts 24th February 1997

OLIVET SCHOOL
50 Norfolk Square
Brighton BN1 2PA
Contact 01273 325839

EASTER REVISION

EXAM TECHNIQUES

St Margarets Oxford

Easter Revision

- 'A' Level / GCSE all subjects
- Small group / individual tuition
- Accomm. at Oxford Colleges
- Also non-residential at Aston B'ham & N'castle Univs
- Examiners predict questions
- A, B or C guarantee scheme

Prospectus: Senior Tutor, Gorselands Hall, Northleigh, Oxford. OX8 6PU

(01865) 880141 or (01993) 882252 24 hrs

BUSINESS COURSES

INTENSIVE
Business Skills

- 3, 6 or 9 month courses
- Computer skills training:
- DTP, Spreadsheets & CD-ROM
- Marketing/Media/Languages
- Practical work experience
- Professional career planning

Prospectus: (01865) 240963

St. Aldates College
Rose Place
Oxford OX1 1SB

It takes more than a little application to get on an MBA Course at Bath

It takes commitment, maturity and motivation. In return you will extend your knowledge, specialist skills and experience to assist with future career development.

Our **EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME** is designed to give you an intensive management education which you will apply, as you learn, within your present organisation. It keeps you away from your workplace for the minimum of time, with study taking place on Friday and Saturday on alternate weekends over a two year period.

Our one year, AMBA-Accredited, **FULL-TIME PROGRAMME** gives you an intensive general management education, with the emphasis on problem solving, team building skills and personal development.

Our **MODULAR PART-TIME PROGRAMME** based on our full time programme, is available in one week blocks of intensive learning, giving students unparalleled studying *flexibility.*

All courses take place in the purpose-built CENTRE FOR EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT within the University of Bath. So if you have the application to succeed in your career, we'd like to hear from you soon.

For full details telephone, write or fax quoting REFERENCE : TS/97

Executive/Modular Part-Time Programme Tel : 01225 826211 - Full-Time Programme Tel : 01225 826152

Fax No. 01225 826210 - WWW site : http://www.bath.ac.uk/Departments/Management

Centre For Executive Development, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath. BA2 7AY

MBAth

UNIVERSITY OF BATH

Advancing Learning and Knowledge in Association with Business and Industry

---

LANGUAGE COURSES

9-MONTH LANGUAGE COURSE ABROAD!

FRANCE • GERMANY • ITALY • SPAIN • ECUADOR

SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING BEGINNERS
IDEAL AS PART OF A 'GAP' YEAR

EF *International Language Schools*

CALL NOW FOR A BROCHURE ON
(0171) 795 6675

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: BOX No:- ……
C/o The Times Newspapers,
P.O. BOX 3553, Virginia Street,
London E1 9GA

POSTS

DUTCH TEACHER

Part-time urgently required. Applicants should have degrees but no previous teaching teaching experience necessary as full training given. Tel. BERLITZ on 0171 915 0909 for further details.

DEVONSHIRE HOUSE SCHOOL

The entry test for places for September 1997 (for those born before 1st September 1991), will be held on Wednesday 5th February 1997.

The School is for boys and girls from two and a half to thirteen years of age.

Parents who wish their children to sit the entry test or who are interested in a place at the school or the nursery for a younger child, should contact the Admissions' Secretary, Devonshire House School, 69 Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, London NW3 6PB. Tel: 0171-435 1916.

POSTS

St Albans School

BURSAR

The Governors invite applications for the post of Bursar and Clerk to the Governors on the retirement of the present Bursar, the postion to be taken up from 1st September 1997.
St Albans School is an independent HMC day School for 670 pupils between the age of 11 and 18.
The School is predominantly for boys but girls are admitted to the Sixth Form.
Applicants should possess proven experience in finance, administration and estate management.

Full details may be obtained from:

The Bursar
St Albans School, Abbey Gateway,
St Albans, Herts, AL3 4HB
Tel: (01727) 855521
Fax: (01727) 843447

The closing date for applications is 27th January 1997.
Charity No. 310005

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 680 6800

EDUCATION

FAX:
0171 782 7899

EASTER REVISION

CIFE

EXCELLENCE IN INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

MAKE THE GRADE

'A' LEVEL EASTER REVISION

Oxford Tutorial College
12 King Edward Street
Oxford OX1 4HT
Tel: (01865) 793333
Fax: (01865) 793233

A Level, GCSE, A/S Levels
1 year, 2 year & Resit Courses

Easter Revision

Ashbourne Independent Sixth Form College
17 Old Court Place, London W8 4PL. 0171-937 3858

CIFE BAC

Ashbourne

ABBEY TUTORIAL COLLEGE

BIRMINGHAM

- All subjects
- Modules for L6 & U6
- Accommodation available

Easter Revision

0121 236 7474

Heroum filii

WELLINGTON COLLEGE

EASTER REVISION 1997

Sixth 'A' Level Courses
31st March – 5th April
6th April – 11th April

Lower Sixth 'A' Level Courses
1st April – 4th April

GCSE Courses
7th April – 11th April

Residential or non-residential

For a brochure and further details contact:
The Secretary, Easter Revision Courses,
Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 7PU

Telephone: 01344-771147 (24 hours)

Wellington College is a Registered Charity, offering education to pupils aged 13–18

ABBEY TUTORIAL COLLEGE

LONDON

A Level Science & Mathematics
Full and Half Day courses
Combinations of Modules available

Easter Revision

Telephone for advice or a prospectus.

0171 229 5928

DAVIES'S COLLEGE

We teach A level and GCSE Easter Revision courses in small groups. By working with students we can improve motivation, confidence and therefore, exam performance. Together, we work on problem-solving, essay style and revision methods. These new skills are then applied by practising exam board specific past papers.

Our methods have brought 70 years of exam success which has led to three-quarters of our students being recommended to us.

0171 430 1622

London and Manchester

COLLINGHAM LONDON

EASTER REVISION COURSES

A Level and GCSE

LONDON
Tel: 0171-244 7414

OXFORD
Tel: 01865-728 280

COLLINGHAM OXFORD

EASTER COURSES AT HERTFORD COLLEGE OXFORD

A LEVEL & GCSE

—

Cherwell Tutors
Greyfriars
Oxford OX1 1LD
01865 242670/246119

ALBANY CAN HELP YOU PASS

GCSE AND 'A' LEVEL INTENSIVE EASTER REVISION

At North West London's largest independent sixth form college

0181 202 5965/0822

The Albany College

EXAMINATION SPECIALISTS

EASTER REVISION

MPW

Mander Portman Woodward

A LEVEL & GCSE REVISION COURSES

Group courses are offered during the Easter holidays and, in London, are exam board specific.

Individual tuition can be arranged during the Spring half term and Easter holidays.

Accommodation is available in Bristol, Cambridge and Birmingham.

LONDON (SCIENCES)
0171 584 8555
LONDON (ARTS)
0171 835 1355
BIRMINGHAM
0121 454 9637
CAMBRIDGE
01223 350158
BRISTOL
0117 9255688

TAKE THE STRAIN OUT OF A-LEVEL & GCSE REVISION

☑ 15 years of success ensure guaranteed pass grades or a have a FREEcourse on us

INTENSIVE EASTER REVISION COURSES FROM JUST £140

Daily or Residential courses with coach service in:
HERTFORDSHIRE: RICKMANSWORTH, HERTFORD & WARE
YORKSHIRE: HARROGATE & YORK or LONDON: MILL HILL

JUSTIN CRAIG EDUCATION AND LONGMANS REVISION GUIDES

See the difference we can make and discover how much easier revision can be............Together we are all you need to know

Call now for a FREE Revision Planner and Brochure

01727 827000

JUSTIN CRAIG Dept 2 Craig House 13 High St, Colney Heath, Herts, AL4 0NS

HARROGATE TUTORIAL COLLEGE

2 THE OVAL
HARROGATE
HG2 9BA

EASTER REVISION

GCE 'A' LEVEL & GCSE
SMALL CLASSES
EXPERIENCED TEACHERS
TEL: 01423 501041
FAX: 01423 531110
study@htcuk.u-net.com
www.harrogate.com/htcuk/

CIFE BAC

Easter Revision

Lansdowne & Duff Miller are offering intensive revision courses for the key A Level and GCSE subjects. A complete coverage of syllabus material, coupled with extensive examination technique and practice, individual surgeries and a mock with full report.

LANSDOWNE and Duff MILLER
KENSINGTON, LONDON

For further information, telephone
0171 225 0577 / 0171 616 4400

EASTER REVISION COURSES

'A' level and GCSE in over 25 subjects

TELEPHONE
0161 236 6836

ABBEY
INDEPENDENT COLLEGE
MANCHESTER

D'OVERBROECK'S
COLLEGE ◆ OXFORD

A level & GCSE Easter Revision

Use the holiday more effectively · Increase exam confidence and improve your grades

Telephone 01865 310000 · Fax 01865 552296

CIFE colleges are committed to academic excellence and are inspected regularly. CIFE is your assurance of the highest standards of conduct and practice in independent education.

POSTS

Head

Harrow International School, Thailand

(Under the aegis of Harrow School)

Harrow International School aims to open in 1998. It will, in due course, educate up to 1,800 boys and girls aged 5-18, along traditional lines, preparing them for IGCSE, A levels, the IB and university entrance.

THE SCHOOL

- To be the pre-eminent international, day and weekly boarding school of Bangkok; housed on an eighty acre green field site, only thirty five minutes from the main residential area.
- Strongly backed by eminent leaders locally, the school will have excellent educational and sporting facilities.

THE POST

- Through the appointment of strong academic staff to build a school with high educational standards and a broad syllabus.
- The post will be filled as soon as possible in 1997.
- Excellent accommodation is offered and a highly attractive starting salary.

QUALIFICATIONS

- A successful Head with a record of academic achievement and management in a traditional school environment.
- Dynamic and energetic leader with strong financial, creative and marketing skills.

Please send full cv by 1st February 1997, ref ED61201T, to NBS, 54 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6LX

N B SELECTION LTD
a BNB Resources plc company

NBS

London 0171 493 2222
Aberdeen • Birmingham • Bristol • City
Edinburgh • Glasgow • Leeds • London
Manchester • Slough • Madrid • Paris

WARWICK

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

September 1997/January 1998

The Governors seek a well qualified, energetic, entusiastic person with flair and vision to lead this happy and thriving school into the 21st century.

The post becomes vacant following the retirement of Mrs Elizabeth Pritchard after many years of skilled managment and leadership. This distinguished school, described by the media as "a model of its kind", occupies substantial purpose-built modern premises and is supported by over 50 highly motivated staff.

The successful applicant will have a proven record of management skills within Junior or Secondary schools.

Full details of the post may be obtained from:-
The Foundation Secretary, Warwick Schools Foundation, 3 Church Street,
Warwick. CV34 4AB

Closing date for applications: **10th Febuary 1997.**

PATHWAYS TO PHILOSOPHY

An exciting new development in distance learning

For free information pack write to: Dr G Klempner, Dept of Philosophy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN

COURSES

LLB HONS

DEGREE IN LAW

BY DISTANCE LEARNING

- **Home-study with opportunity to transfer to full or part-time courses**
- **Diploma scheme enables you to take one subject at a time**
- **Choice and flexibility**
- **Value for money - course books included in competitive fees**

For further information contact

HOLBORN COLLEGE
200 Greyhound Road, London W14 9RY
TEL: 0171 385 3377 FAX 0171 381 3377
e-mail: hlt@holborncollege.ac.uk
Internet: http://www.holborncollege.ac.uk

How To Make £20,000 a Year Freelance Writing In Britain

This Free Newsletter from the Morris College of Journalism shows you exactly how.

0800 371 500

Make £20,000 pa as a Travel Writer

This Free Newsletter shows you how to pay for all yourUK and international travel and make some money at the same time!

0800 371 500

Make Money With Your Home Computer

Make excellent full or part-time profits from home with your personal computer. This free Information Kit from the Morris College of Journalism shows you exactly how. Freephone:

0800 371 500
+44 1932 850008

QUEEN'S

BUSINESS & SECRETARIAL COLLEGE
LONDON & CAMBRIDGE

INTENSIVE BUSINESS SKILLS

JANUARY 1997 START

12 & 24 Week Courses Including:
Typing, Computer Applications, Business Administration, Shorthand, Management Appreciation & Career Development.

Queen's Business & Secretarial College
24 Queensberry Place
London SW7 2DS
Tel: 0171 589 8583

Queen's Marlborough College
Bateman Street
Cambridge CB2 1LU
Tel: 01223 367016

Hove College
41 Medina Villas, Hove

Want to work for an Airline?

24 wk International Travel Diploma incorporating BA travel reservations training & job placement assistance

INTERVIEWING NOW

Prospectus: (01273) 731352

BRITISH AIRWAYS

Courses run by Hove College.

EAGLE EYES REQUIRED

Would you like to practice as a freelance proofreader or editor earning an excellent income working from home? Then mark the errors in in this advertisement and post it to Chapterhouse with your name, and a dress.

We'll send you a free prospectus of our training services. Chapterhouse courses are respected internationally and our professional tutors give you their personal attention. We never pretend its easy, but we have a six-ear record of establishing many successful freelancers through our co-respondance training and seminars.

If your too busy a phone call will do.

Chapterhouse, 2 Southernhay West, Exeter EX1 1JG. Tel: 01392 499488, Fax 01392 498008

CHALLENGE

Destination La France.

Sorbonne University - Paris

Angers, Nantes, Poitiers & Toulouse
French language courses - all levels
Enrol Now for February '97

101 Lorna Road,
HOVE, Sussex,
BN3 3EL
Tel: 01273 220261

Oxford Easter Courses

1ST/2ND YEAR A LEVEL REVISION

Conventional or Modular Syllabus

Fully Residential at St. Hilda's College
March 22nd - 27th and April 1st - 6th

High quality courses run by ex-A level examiner for A level students only. Full board, single rooms, specialist tutors.

Tel: (01865) 311517 (24hrs)

96 Southmoor Road, Oxford. OX2 6RB

Oxford Easter Courses exists to provide non profit-making educational courses.

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

Girls' Public Day School Trust

THE BELVEDERE SCHOOL, LIVERPOOL (GPDST)

640 Girls (aged 3 - 18)

Applications are invited for the post of

HEAD

which will become vacant from the 1st September 1997 when the present Headmistress, Mrs. Carole Evans takes up the post of Headmistress of Birkenhead High School.

The school participates in the Government's Assisted Places Scheme.

For full particulars and an application form write to:

The Secretary
The Girls' Public Day School Trust
26 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AN
Closing date for applications
Friday, 24th January 1997

APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Registrary

The University Council invite applications for the office of Registrary, which will become vacant on 1 October 1997 by the retirement of Dr SG Fleet.

The Registrary is the head of the University's administrative service, and the principal adviser to the Vice-Chancellor on administrative matters.

Persons interested in applying are asked to first seek full particulars from the Vice-Chancellor, at the following address:

The Vice-Chancellor,
University Offices,
The Old Schools
Cambridge CB2 1TN.

Applications must be made not later than 27 January 1997.

The University follows an equal opportunities policy

An *investment* that provides REAL GROWTH for *your* daughter

By securing her a place at St George's School for Girls you're making a lifetime investment in your daughter's education. From nursery school through to university, we will prepare her for a world where character and common sense are every bit as important as exam results. We will be conducting entry assessments for prospective pupils on the following dates: PRIMARY DEPARTMENT: *P1 - P6 Saturday 11 January 1997. P1 Saturday 18 January 1997.* SECONDARY DEPARTMENT: *P7 - S1 Saturday 25 January 1997, S2 - S6 Please contact the school.* Sixth Form Scholarships are available to outstanding external candidates. The nursery is also inviting enrolment applications from parents of pre-school girls (and boys) for August 1997. From Primary 5 upwards, there are places available at our Junior and Senior boarding houses. Or, from nursery upwards, we can provide After School Care. For a Prospectus & Form of Application call Miss Karen Laidlaw on 0131 332 4575.

ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
Garscube Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 6BG.

"St. George's exists to promote educational excellence for girls."

MPW – LEARNING ABOUT MEDICINE

MEDICINE

MPW, in association with a London Teaching Hospital, has designed a one-day course specifically for those who intend to apply for a place to read medicine. Working in small groups under the supervision of senior medical staff, students will learn about the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease. The course includes a ward round and examination of volunteer patients.

0171 581 7911
Next Course
25 Jan

مكبرا عن الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

EDUCATION

We need to assist children not parents

The future of the Assisted Places Scheme hangs in the balance. **John Rae** says a different scheme would fulfil the original intentions

The survey reported in *The Times* this week of families whose daughters hold assisted places at Girls Public Day School Trust schools was clearly intended to encourage the Labour Party to think again about abolishing the Assisted Places Scheme. But it is likely to have the opposite effect. By highlighting the case of a girl who has accepted an assisted place at Birkenhead High School when she had been offered a place at a local state school with comparable academic results, the survey exposed the scheme's fundamental weakness.

Taxpayers' money is being used to fund a parental preference for an independent school when there is a perfectly good state school on their doorstep. I am all for parental choice but I do not see why I should pay school fees for other people's children unless their educational needs cannot be met in the schools that my taxes are already funding.

There is nothing wrong in principle with the State buying places at independent schools. It happens without controversy in many countries. But from the taxpayers' point of view it makes sense only if the places are used to enhance pupil opportunity not just to extend parental choice. An Assisted Places Scheme can be justified only if it complements what the state system has to offer. The present scheme does not do that. There is no objective assessment of whether the child needs to move schools.

I do not blame parents for taking advantage of the scheme. Their overriding concern is to get the best education for their child. But the scheme would be so much more acceptable to the taxpayer and so much less vulnerable to political swings if it was seen to be based on the needs of the child.

In the early days it was possible to argue that in some areas the scheme did complement what was available in the state system because the independent schools involved were academic high-flyers. To give a bright child from a disadvantaged area an assisted place at Manchester Grammar School or the North London Collegiate School would seem to be a reasonable use of public funds to most people. Why waste talent when the means to develop it are at hand?

But in recent years the scheme has been expanded to include independent schools with no academic pretension. "All the schools have been chosen for their academic record," the Independent Schools Information Service assures parents interested in the scheme. But 47 of the schools offering assisted places are so *weak academically that they cannot make* the top five hundred in *The Times* A-level league table. To argue that children need to move to these schools to get a better academic education is an insult to the large number of state schools with better results.

The omens are not good as the future of the scheme hangs in the balance. The independent schools want the best children they can get, not the children who need them most. The Conservatives think that extending parental choice is justification enough. Labour and the Liberal Democrats believe there are no needs that cannot be met by the local education authority.

How wrong they all are. There are children whose needs are not being met in state schools and who could be helped by independent schools if those schools were willing to co-operate.

I am thinking particularly of children with learning difficulties. There are other children whose needs are not being met, but those with learning difficulties, such as dyslexia and dyspraxia, are a good illustration of how a reformed Assisted Places Scheme could work. These children are ill-served by many local education authorities (LEAs) and would be well-served by those independent schools that have developed an impressive expertise in this area. There is a match between need and opportunity, precisely the circumstances in which it would be justified to use taxpayers' money.

Changing the basis of the scheme in this way would have a number of implications. The independent schools would have to accept that while other needs were not ruled out, most assisted places would be awarded to children who would not improve the school's position in the league tables.

The LEAs would have to accept that their schools cannot provide for the needs of all their children, something they would not find it easy to do. No one who has not tried to persuade an LEA to make special provision for a child with learning difficulties can have any idea of the lengths to which some LEAs will go to demonstrate that no special provision is needed.

The new scheme would be funded and administered centrally. Someone has to check the child's need and the school's qualifications for meeting it. However difficult that proves, it will be an improvement on the present arrangements, which include no check at all.

As the election approaches the independent sector is lobbying hard for the retention of the scheme. It would be a better strategy to bypass the politicians and to open discussions with the heads of state schools to see whether there is any common ground on reforming the scheme. State school heads were not consulted when the scheme was set up and may now be disinclined to get involved. They may even believe that the *abolition of the scheme will reduce the size* of primary school classes.

The members of the National Association of Head teachers and of the Secondary Heads Association are, however, realists and they share with the heads of independent schools a belief that the needs of the child are paramount. They might also welcome a change that prevented the independent sector poaching some of their most promising pupils.

Public schools score own goal

Mark Dickson on the out-of-date prejudices that keep soccer off the independent school syllabus

JULIAN HERBERT

The "beautiful game", public-school style: a Shrewsbury player, left, heads the ball away from a Malvern College boy

At the opening ceremony of Euro 96 last summer, the role of English public schools in the origins of football was acknowledged and celebrated. The first organised games were played in these schools during the first half of the 19th century, and initial attempts to agree on a common set of rules of the game were made by their representatives in the 15 years before the formation of the Football Association in 1863.

The game is now the world's most popular sport. And with English football enjoying its most prosperous period for half a century, it is all the more remarkable that many public schools offer their pupils no organised football at all.

About half of the schools in the Headmasters' Conference omit football from the list of sports they play, as revealed in the *Independent Schools Yearbook*. In Scottish independent schools, the playing of organised soccer is almost un*heard of. The situation in prep* schools is only a little better than in the senior schools.

The popularity of football among children seems unquestionable. Is there a playground in the country where spontaneous kickabout games are not almost continuous — and not only for boys? Girls' football is expanding rapidly.

Of course, many schools choose to specialise in other sports. Nothing wrong with that. Sporting preference is a matter of individual taste. But not to provide any organised football at all — depriving pupils of playing and learning Britain's national sport — seems hard for school authori*ties to justify*.

This official disapproval of the national game can trace its origins to the rise of professionalism in the years immediately before and after the First World War. Many schools considered that money had besmirched football, and began playing sports that stayed strictly amateur. In later years there was, unquestionably, an element of snobbery involved, with football not considered a game fit to be played by "gentlemen".

Belying this theory, how*ever, some of* the country's most famous schools — Charterhouse, Eton, Shrewsbury, Winchester and Westminster, among others — have always stayed true to their footballing traditions.

Today the arguments against permitting any football at all seem more and more hard to support. Professionalism has invaded almost every team game at the top level, thus depriving other sports of any claims to holding the moral high ground. Football is cheap and easy to play, the pupils clearly want to play and, significantly, it is a relatively safe sport.

Football has become the world game; there is no country in which a footballer, after leaving school, cannot find a team to join, and few countries in which soccer does not provide the visitor with an interest to share with locals.

The Football Association is clearly eager to help schools to introduce soccer to their timetables. It has published the *FA Curriculum Guide*, showing how the game can fit into the national curriculum at key stages 1, 2 and 3.

It is hard to understand what reasons schools could give for not offeriing any football in their sporting curriculums. It is easier to believe that such a policy is motivated primarily by fear that their own favoured sport might be overwhelmed by the popularity of football among pupils. Better to prevent their playing soccer.

We all have our own sporting preferences. Different schools will continue to specialise in their own particular sports. I am not trying to argue against that, or to denigrate any other sport. But to deprive pupils of the opportunity of organised participation in Britain's national game seems, nowadays, quite unjustifiable.

● *The author is master in charge of football at Shrewsbury School.*

John O'Leary on changes in management teaching

Business schools aim at the executive

The modern manager cannot spare the time to go on long courses at business schools. That would be to admit that his or her organisation can function without his leadership.

Aware of this, many leading business schools are increasingly concentrating on executive courses. Some have even opened their own hotels to cater for the senior managers who use the programmes.

The MBA may still be the symbol of management education, but for schools such as Cranfield, Henley, London or Manchester, shorter courses are providing a growing proportion of income. Often tailored for a particular company, they can be part of a wider package of activities, including research and consultancy. At Cranfield, for example, executive education now accounts for 55 per cent of income. A £6 million executive centre opened last year with 186 rooms, plentiful leisure facilities and the most modern communications.

Professor Leo Murray, head of the school management, says: "The market has been buoyant for some time. We have been growing at 18 per cent a year for the past decade. But the whole character of what we offer is changing all the time; companies want more bang for the buck, and we have to tailor our courses to that."

As well as becoming more demanding, however, companies are more likely to enter into comprehensive and long-lasting agreements. Courses may last from a few days to several weeks, with the longer programmes usually delivered in more than one section. Participants, even for the short courses, come from as far away as Indonesia. Most will fit a course into a longer business trip to British interests.

Henley Management School has also seen big changes in executive education, always an important part of the school portfolio. It can house 120 students in recently upgraded accommodation.

Gareth Jones, the Professor of Organisational Development, says: "Executives no longer regard themselves as passive recipients of received wisdom. They have become more sophisticated about what they want from a course, and the relationship is now more of a partnership.

"As a result, the whole role of the business school is changing. The days are long gone when it was an adjunct of the university, conferring status on managers who would come for two or three months. People cannot afford to be away from their desks for that long, and the main purpose of the course is to help executives to cope with high rates of change."

Like other schools, Henley is seeing a resurgence of the "open" courses, rather than those tailored to companies. The school offers a halfway house on its Executive MBA programme. Some big companies form consortiums to ensure cross-fertilisation of ideas within a tightly controlled course.

At Manchester Business School, the dividing line between executive education and traditional courses is increasingly blurred. Executives often take single modules of an MBA course, using it as the management component of a specialist programme.

Professor Peter Barrar, the Postgraduate Centre's director, says: "In schools like ours, executive education is the main growth area. The MBA is a very mature market, and the shorter course offers the same level of work with minimal disruption."

Competition among business schools is every bit as fierce as in the MBA market; both American and European schools also concentrate on executive courses. Harvard Business School, for example, has made overhauling its executive programmes a priority since the arrival of a new dean last year, and Insead, the top French school at Fontainebleau, just outside Paris, is also an attractive proposition for British managers.

John Gilmore reports on increasing worries in France about safety at school

French lessons with fears

Concerns about school security in France are growing. A report for the French Education Ministry claims that at one infants and *primary school in ten there is a* possible fire risk, at a time when French teachers and parents are increasingly worried about classroom and playground violence. They are demanding extra safety measures.

The report showed faults in evacuation procedures, poor construction and defective equipment. Stacks of materials littered classes and corridors, adding to the fire risks.

All schools up to *lycée* level reported 156,000 accidents in 1994-95, and as a result they sent 13,000 children to hospital, most for less than 48 hours. But 1,500 of those had to stay in hospital for more than two days. Sixteen children died during tuition, six of them while playing sport.

Jean-Marie Schleret, president of the *Observatoire National de la Sécurité des Etablissements Scolaires*, said: "We must introduce a culture of improved security and safety in schools." His report pointed out that only 46 per cent of the Fr2.5 billion (about £294 million) allocated by the Government in 1994 over a five-year plan had been used to improve school facilities. It is believed that a further sum of between Fr3 billion and Fr5 billion will be needed.

It is only four months since two French school teenagers died — one accidentally, the other by stabbing — within eight days of each other, prompting François Bayroue, the Education Minister, to ask every secondary school to provide him with a report on violence on their premises and ideas on controlling it.

At the Collège Henri Beaumont in the council estate Argentine region of Beauvais, in l'Oise, courses restarted only on December 16 after a month without lessons following an attack on a teacher. Jean-Michel Langlet, a sports teacher, was hit several times in the face by a student during a physical education lesson.

It was too much for anxious parents, teachers and students, who agreed that courses would stop until a proper level of protection and order could be guaranteed. In the first seven days of November, 27 of 219 incidents involved fighting. Teachers at the school claim that lessons were continually disrupted by unruly students and that sometimes only 15 minutes' tuition was possible.

Jean-Claude Ropars, the college principal, said: "We are in the heart of an explosive area of high unemployment. Teachers are not equipped for such social conditions."

The college reopened the week before Christmas with a strong police presence around the school and 750 of the 850 students attending. The teachers reluctantly started lessons again. The Education Ministry did not not meet all of the protesters' demands, but the college received an extra social assistant and five more security staff.

In other schools, similar fears have led to different action. Last month, parents of students at the Collège Pesquier in the Gardanne Bouches-du-Rhône region prevented the teachers from entering the school in protest at the lack of surveillance. They demanded more supervisors.

René Salvet, a Paris lecturer, claimed: "There are two difficulties: the social problem of unemployed extended families, in which the adults have no job, and the need to revolutionise the rigid education system."

Guy Drut, the Sports Minister, has tried to change the education system by introducing in 200 regions a new five-day primary school programme of morning academic learning and recreational afternoon activities. The programme is aimed mainly at areas of high unemployment and by 1997 about 200,000 children are expected to benefit from the system.

But the Government's attempts to *reduce public spending* during the past year have been strongly resisted by the public. Jean Lerange, an analyst, said: "It's a no-win situation. French people want to pay less tax, but do not want anybody tampering with their personal doctor service. Meanwhile, unemployment continues to rise: about 12 per cent of the working population are out of work."

A TIMES READER OFFER

Visit the eastern Canadian province of Ontario

Canadian city break

4 nights from £299 per person

Departures throughout February & March 1997

Journey to Canada for a three night stay in Toronto, on the shores of Lake Ontario. This city has many attractions *including the CN Tower, which at* almost 2,000 feet is the world's tallest free-standing structure. Its observation decks are reached by a glass-fronted lift and offer breathtaking views.

For shopping enthusiasts, there is the centrally located Eaton Centre which has over 300 stores, or alternatively, visit the harbourfront area with its quaint shops and waterside restaurants.

Optional excursions include a full day visit to the spectacular Niagara Falls, a city tour of Toronto or an evening harbour cruise.

The holiday price includes:

- return scheduled flights between London Heathrow and Toronto
- transfers between the airport and your hotel
- three nights room only accommodation sharing a twin/double room
- porterage at the hotel
- airport taxes
- services of a representative in Canada.

Telephone for a brochure on

0990 55 33 55

quoting *The Times*

or return coupon below to:

The Times Canadian City Break Offer,
Festive Holidays Limited, Pate Court,
North Place, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire GL50 4DY

This holiday is operated by Festive Holidays Ltd, a company independent of Times Newspapers Ltd.

ABTA V106X ATOL 2172

The Times
Canadian City Break Offer
Please forward me a brochure

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) ....

Address ....

....

....

Post Code: ....

☐ Please tick box if you do not wish to receive future offers from Times Newspapers or companies which may be of interest. TIM/TSW

TENNIS: BRITISH NO 1 MOVES INTO SEMI-FINALS WITH PREDECESSOR SINGING HIS PRAISES

Henman continues to impress

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE excellent start to the new year for Tim Henman continued yesterday in the quarter-finals of the international tournament in Sydney. Henman beat Alex O'Brien, of the United States, 1-6, 7-6, 6-4 to set up a match with Goran Ivanisevic, of Croatia, for a place in the final of the warm-up event for the Australian Open.

Henman looked far from convincing against O'Brien in the early stages, losing his first service and winning just one game in the opening set. But Henman's serve improved considerably in the second set, as he moved into a 5-2 lead, only to be broken again and to miss a set point as O'Brien fought back to 6-6. But the Briton took the tie-break 7-3 before winning the deciding set 6-4.

After a tiring flight from Doha, where Henman lost in the final of the Qatar Open to Jim Courier, there were fears that playing in Sydney would see an early exit for Henman as he prepared for the Australian Open. But his performances in the tournament to date have suggested otherwise. Henman has now beaten Renzo Furlan, of Italy, Sergi Bruguera, the former French Open champion from Spain, and O'Brien — himself a man rising in the world rankings.

"I have played quite a few games in the last few weeks but I still feel full of energy," Henman said. "I am definitely feeling fitter and moving a lot better around the court. I was mainly concerned with preparations for the Australian Open, which starts on Monday. I only hope I can continue with my form so far."

Mark Cox, the former British No 1, paid tribute yesterday to Henman's progress. "He has a tremendous future. What impresses me most is that he has an inner belief in his own abilities," Cox said. "He's a player with immense natural talent and has the capacity to play the big points well. One of his goals, I know, for 1997 was to get to a final, and by doing so in the Qatar Open he has had a good start."

Henman was rated No 24 in the latest ATP world rankings, but his victory over O'Brien should see that improve further. Cox, who carried the mantle of the leading British player between 1968 and 1976, added: "Now he's really well up there and is capable of beating any player in the world. He is on a learning curve and every match is a new experience for him. He's developing physically all the time and has now developed more muscle and real power."

Ivanisevic will pose a bigger test for the 22-year-old Briton, looking comfortable in disposing of Sandon Stolle, of Australia, in straight sets yesterday, 6-4, 6-2. The other semi-final will be contested by two Spaniards, Carlos Moya and Alberto Costa, who both won in straight sets yesterday.

In the women's event, Martina Hingis, of Switzerland, and Jennifer Capriati continued their winning ways. Hingis, the No 2 seed, survived a scare in the first set against Yayuk Basuki, of Indonesia, before advancing with a 7-6, 6-1 victory, while Capriati, of the United States, extended her winning streak with a 6-4, 6-1 triumph over her compatriot, Amy Frazier. The United States are well represented in the semi-finals, with Mary Joe Fernandez and Lindsay Davenport both winning yesterday.

☐ Three British players, Andrew Richardson, Mark Petchey and Jamie Delgado, all won their first-round matches in the qualifying competition for the Australian Open in Melbourne.

Steffi Graf said yesterday that she will be fit to challenge for a fifth Australian Open title. The world No I has missed the past two Australian Opens because of injury. Graf, the favourite for the tournament starting next week in the absence of Monica Seles, said: "I have practised a lot over the last few days and I am ready."

Results, page 45

CLIVE BRUNSKILL / ALLSPORT

Henman serves on his way to victory over O'Brien in Sydney yesterday

Australian officials put trust in rankings

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

AUSTRALIAN Open officials have stuck fairly rigidly to the world rankings in naming their seedings, avoiding a repeat of the controversy that affected the US Open last year. Pete Sampras and Steffi Graf were yesterday named No 1 seeds in the singles competitions of the year's first grand-slam event, starting at Melbourne Park on Monday. The draw will be made today.

Unlike at the US Open and Wimbledon, where officials also consider a player's record on grass, the Australian Open has a tradition of relying on official world rankings in deciding seedings. Indeed, in the men's singles, the top six seedings replicate the Association of Tennis Professionals rankings.

Michael Chang, who lost to Boris Becker in four sets in the final last year, is the No 2 seed, with Goran Ivanisevic seeded third ahead of the French Open champion, Yevgeny Kafelnikov. Becker is seeded sixth, true to his ranking, one place behind Thomas Muster.

It was Muster who accused US Open officials of manipulating the draw and seedings when they departed from the usual format last year. The reaction from Muster and other players prompted officials to take the unprecedented step of scrapping the men's draw and starting again from scratch.

In the women's singles, Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, of Spain, has been named the No 2 seed after the withdrawal of Monica Seles with a broken finger.

SEEDINGS: Men: 1, P Sampras (US); 2, M Chang (US); 3, G Ivanisevic (Cro); 4, Y Kafelnikov (Russ); 5, T Muster (Austria); 6, B Becker (Ger); 7, T Enqvist (Swe); 8, W Ferreira (SA); 9, M Rios (Chile); 10, A Costa (Sp); 11, J Courier (US); 12, M Gustafsson (Swe); 13, J Siemerink (Holl); 14, F Mantilla (Sp); 15, M Stich (Ger); 16, A Berasategui (Sp). Women: 1, S Graf (Ger); 2, A Sánchez Vicario (Sp); 3, C Martinez (Sp); 4, M Hingis (Switz); 5, A Huber (Ger); 6, I Majoli (Cro); 7, L Davenport (US); 8, I Spirlea (Rom); 9, K Habsudova (Slovakia); 10, B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl); 11, J Wiesner (Austria); 12, A Coetzer (SA); 13, E Likhovtseva (Russ); 14, M J Fernandez (US); 15, C Rubin (US); 16, S Appelmans (Bel).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Lindsay gets on course for senior Tote role

Christopher Irvine reports on the rugby league executive with plans for horse racing

MAURICE LINDSAY would resign as chief executive of the Rugby Football League (RFL), a position he has held since November 1992, should his candidature for chairmanship of the Tote, the government-backed pool-betting organisation, be successful. He would, however, probably retain his chairmanship of the Super League International Board.

Until now, Lindsay's passion for racing has come second to that for rugby league. Were he to jump horses, the Tote could anticipate the same zealous reform that has modernised rugby league under his dynamic and, on occasions, controversial stewardship.

In the event of his departure, the domestic game would be left in a healthier financial state, largely as a result of the £87 million Super League deal that he helped to negotiate. David Howes, the St Helens chief executive, and Gary Hetherington, his recently appointed opposite number at Leeds, could be amomg contenders for the vacancy.

Lindsay, 55, was apparently invited to apply for the Tote position in succession to Lord Wyatt, of Weeford. He is a leading choice among nine candidates and is flattered by the interest. "To even be considered among such eminent company is a recognition of rugby league's development over the past ten years," he said. "Right now, I'm concentrating on the world club competition this summer and the International Board meeting at the end of the month."

His readiness to leave the RFL — "I would face an awfully difficult decision," he admitted — could be interpreted as knowing when to move on. Lindsay is a shrewd operator and the timing is apt, when Rugby League (Europe) — or RLE — the new marketing organisation set up by the 12 Super League clubs, is assuming some of the RFL's duties and actually sharing some staff in Leeds.

Delegating responsibility is not a strength of Lindsay; undaunted, one-man leadership is. The Tote is ripe for reform, as rugby league was when Lindsay took control from David Oxley, his urbane predecessor, after an acclaimed 13 years at Wigan. Lindsay was portrayed as villain for trying to sell off the game's heritage in the switch to summer and advent of the Super League, but there was to be no turning back.

Personality clashes within the game have led Lindsay to appear isolated at times, but even his critics bow to his fighting qualities. He has raised the game's profile — but also damaged it. His instruction to send home 12 players halfway through Great Britain's tour of New Zealand last October before consulting the team management was a demoralising episode.

The £75,000-a-year Tote position is for 3½ days a week. Lindsay said that, whatever happened, he would not turn his back on rugby league. At international level, his role is deemed too important for him to depart, with the 22-team world club competition starting in June, and the first Great Britain v Australia series under the Super League banner, in November.

Lindsay is due to have his first meeting next Monday with Colin Myler, the new RLE chief executive, whose role on behalf of the Super League clubs is to market, promote and sell the game. It is important for both men to forge a productive relationship — but there is now a hiatus while Lindsay is considered for the new post.

EDUCATION

C IF U 2 COULD B A
COMPUTER
PROGRAMMER/ANALYST

Surprise yourself - ACT NOW! You could have the ability. Fill in the coupon below or call 01384 459521 for free information.

Hundreds of people, regardless of age, sex or qualifications have already benefited from CIL's Award Winning Learning System and are now enjoying high earning jobs in computers. You could join them.

Read about employment prospects in our information pack and fill in the Career Planner. We'll then be able to advise you on your potential - a valuable service FREE OF CHARGE.

C.I.L., FREEPOST, Dudley DY3 2BR.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms ....
Tel _ _ _ _ _ | _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Age ....
Address ....
CIL Est. 1964 Post Code ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐
Occupation ....
*Computeach International Ltd. Est. 1964

TT 008/12/CPA

CHELMSFORD COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL
A Grant Maintained Grammar School

Appointment of
HEAD
With effect from 1st September 1997

Subsequent to the appointment of the current Head, Bernice McCabe, to the Headship of The North London Collegiate School, applications are invited from high calibre candidates for this key post.

Recently cited by the Chief Inspector as being "outstandingly successful" this highly selective girls grammar school enjoys an exceptional national reputation for excellence in academic, cultural and sporting pursuits.

Candidates must possess appropriate qualifications, intellect and charisma, and demonstrate vision, energy, proven leadership and management skills appropriate to build on the excellence of the School in order to lead it with vigour into the next millennium.

Governors will consider applications from candidates with experience of any sector of education.

Further details and application forms are available from:
The Clerk to the Governors, Chelmsford County High School for Girls,
Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1RW, to whom informal enquiries may also be made
Tel: 01245 352592/256993 Fax: 01245 345746

Closing date for applications: Tuesday, 28th January, 1997

Schools Curriculum Award

THE MANAGEMENT SCHOOL
LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

HEFCE Ratings:
Research: Five Star **Teaching:** Excellent

MPhil in Critical Management

Specifically designed to help managers tackle important issues confronting their organisations during times of rapid change, this three year, part-time degree programme encourages a critical analysis of existing management theories and practices.

Focusing on global and strategic issues, as well as environmental and ethical considerations, the programme has been developed for senior managers and MBA graduates and involves teaching in small groups culminating in a research project.

Our next programme begins October 1997.

For programme brochure or to discuss this or any other Management School programme, contact:

Sarah Patterson, Programme Administrator,
The Management School, Lancaster University,
Lancaster LA1 4YX.
Tel: 01524 593855. Fax: 01524 381454.
E-Mail: s.patterson@lancaster.ac.uk

THE UNIVERSITY
OF BIRMINGHAM
FACULTY OF LAW
READERSHIP, SENIOR LECTURESHIP
OR LECTURESHIP IN LAW

The Faculty of Law invites applications for a vacant post which may be filled either at senior lecturer or lecturer level. In selecting the candidate, emphasis will be placed on his or her record or potential in research. A candidate with a distinguished record of scholarship or original research is eligible for consideration for appointment to a Readership.

Salary up to £31,357 the top point of the Senior Lecturer scale, or to £26,430 the top point of the Lecturer B scale.

Informal enquiries may be made to the Dean of the Faculty, Professor C. J. Miller, telephone 0121 414 3172, (e-mail: C.J.Miller.law@bham.ac.uk) or the Deputy Dean, Professor D J Feldman, telephone 0121 414 6283, (e-mail: D.J.Feldman@bham.ac.uk) or fax 0121 414 3585.

Starting date 1 September 1997 or by arrangement.

Application forms (returnable by 31 January 1997) and further particulars are available from the Director of Staffing Services, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, telephone 0121 414 6483 (24 hours), (e-mail: STAFFING@BHAM.AC.UK). Please quote reference L785/97.

Working towards equal opportunities.

POSTS

Head
Cheltenham College

Cheltenham College is at an exciting point in its development and will become fully co-educational in September 1998.

THE COLLEGE
- Superb location and excellent facilities. The College has a total of 943 pupils of whom 377 are in the Junior School, which has its own Headmaster
- Two thirds of the senior pupils are boarders. The College has a strong Christian ethos and a reputation for educational innovation.

THE POST
- Lead the College through important challenges, ensuring strong numbers and academic standards.
- The post falls vacant on 31st August 1997, on the departure of Mr Peter Wilkes after seven years' service.

QUALITIES
- Person of high intellectual calibre with experience of management in a school environment, and commitment to boarding and co-education.
- Leader who commands respect, is a creative thinker, good communicator and delegator with excellent judgement.

Please send application, stating ref ED61202T, to NBS, 54 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6LX, by 30th January 1997.

N B SELECTION LTD
a BNB Resources plc company
NBS
London 0171 493 2220
Aberdeen • Birmingham • Bristol • City
Edinburgh • Glasgow • Leeds • London
Manchester • Slough • Madrid • Paris

Bursar
Harrow School

To £60,000 + Car + Accommodation + Benefits

Challenging, high profile role calling for exceptional personal qualities and considerable financial acumen.

THE POSITION
- Responsible for overall finance and administration of Harrow School with 780 boarders and The John Lyon School in Harrow with 525 day boys.
- Report to Head Masters and Governing Board.
- Manage team of 350 support staff through five departments covering finance, estates, domestic, personnel and administration and The John Lyon School.
- Run a successful trading company.

QUALIFICATIONS
- First class administrator and manager with record of success at senior level.
- Financially astute with a commercial approach. Computer literate.
- Understanding of, and empathy with, academic environment. Willing to contribute to the life of the schools.
- Presence and authority. An excellent communicator who is credible at all levels, able to develop good working relationships within the schools and externally.

Please send full cv by 24th January 1997, ref PS70104, to NBS, 54 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6LX

N B SELECTION LTD
a BNB Resources plc company
NBS
London 0171 493 6392
Aberdeen • Birmingham • Bristol • City
Edinburgh • Glasgow • Leeds • London
Manchester • Slough • Madrid • Paris

هكذا من الأصل

1,000 COMPANIES

CHALLENGE 96.

MAKE SURE

JOIN THEM 97.

A C Lloyd (Builders) Ltd
ACM Shipping Ltd
ADAS
AIG Europe (UK) Ltd
AIS Yorkshire
AOC International Ltd
ARC International Plc
AT & T Network Systems UK Ltd
AXA Equity & Law
Abbey National Benefit Consultants Ltd
Able Instruments & Controls Ltd
Acco Europe/Protool
Acoustafoam Group
Air Movement Design Ltd
Aerospace
Alan Steel (Asset Management) Ltd
Alex Stewart Partnership
Alexander Binzel U K Ltd
Alison Associates
Alliance & Leicester/Giro Bank
Allied Dunbar
Allied Dunbar (West Midland Region)
Allied Dunbar (Yorkshire Region)
Allied Dunbar Assurance (Head Office)
Allied Dunbar Assurance (Swindon)
Allsop Financial Services
Alms & Young
Alpha Precision Eng (Poole) Ltd
Alsop Wilkinson
Alusuisse UK Ltd
Alvis Plc
Amoco (UK) Exploration Company
Anglo Holt Construction Ltd
Apollo Metals (UK) Limited
Apollo Video Film Hire Ltd
Appleyard Citroen Bradford
Applied Communications Inc Ltd
Aqua-Gas (Valves & Fittings) Ltd
Archer Leisure
Armstrong Watson & Co
Arthur Andersen
Ashdown Hurrey & Co
Asset Management Services
Associated Leisure Ltd
Associated Nursing Services Plc
Associated Octel Co Ltd
Association of Independent Tobacco Specialists
Atlas Elektronik
Avis Rent A Car
Avon & Wiltshire Health Service
Avon Insurance
B E W (Auto Products) Ltd
B H S
B M I The Park Hospital
B P Chemicals
B P Oil UK Ltd
B R Hodgson Group Limited
BASF Plc Colours & Specialities Div
BDO Stoy Hayward
BP Oil (UK) Ltd
BP Sunbury
Bain Hogg
Balfour Beatty
Bank of Montreal
Banque Paribas
Barclaycard
Barclays Bank
Barclays Bank / Clarkson Hyde
Barclays Bank South East Region
Barclays Life Assurance Co Ltd
Barclays Vehicle Management Services
Barkers International Communications Ltd
Bass Taverns Limited
Bates Weston
Bayer Plc
Beachcroft Stanleys
Beacons Business Interiors
Bell & Watson (UK) Plc
Bennett Brooks & Co Limited
Benoy Limited
Benson McGarvey Henderson
Berwin Leighton
Binder Hamlyn
Birmingham Manufacturing Jewellers Ltd
Birmingham Midshires Mortgage Services Ltd
Bick Plc
Blockbuster Video UK Ltd
Blue Circle Industries Plc
Booth Welsh Associates Ltd
Borax Europe Ltd
Bowater Business Forms
Bowring Marsh and McLennan Ltd
Boyd & Lloyd Office Supplies
Brachers Solicitors
Bradley Lomas Electrolok Limited
Bridger Packaging
British Airways Maintenance Cardiff
British Airways Travel Shops Limited
British Dental Association
British Midland
British Midland Airways
British Racing Group
British Steel Plc
Brookvale Kitchens
Brownhills Glass Co. Ltd
Brown Shipley & Co Ltd
Brunel UK Ltd
Bryden Johnson & Co
Building & Property Facilities Management
Bulwell Precision Engineers Ltd
Burrows Keith & Associates Ltd
Bury & Walkers
Business Seating & Desking
Business Systems Group Ltd
Buzzacott & Co
C B C Oxford
C M G Computer Management Group (UK) Ltd
C-C-C Group Limited
C.L.C. Group Ltd
C.M.I. Ltd
CEF Torquay
CSI Computing Services for Industry Ltd
CWS Ltd Funeral Service Group
Caledonian System Consultants Ltd
Call Connections Ltd
Calor (NI) Ltd
Camas - Building Materials
Campbell Reith Hill
Canada Life
Canary Wharf Management Ltd
Capital Asset Finance Limited
Caradon Gent Limited
Carnaud Metalbox Closures Plc
Carpet & Flooring (Midlands)
Catchgate Components
Celtic Vacuum Ltd
Chancery Insurance Group
Charles Barrett Interiors
Charles Russell
Charles Taylor & Co Ltd
Chartdale Homes
Charterhouse Tilney
Chase
Chemical Corporation (UK) Ltd
Chemical Manufacture and Refining Ltd
Cheshire Building Society
Children With Leukaemia Ltd
Christchurch Investment Management Ltd
Citibank N.A.
Citroen Fleet
Citroen Scottish Open
City Electrical Factors Ltd
City Index Ltd
Citymax Integrated Information Systems Ltd
Claremont Business Environment
Clarke Penny
Clerical Medical Investment Group
Clipfine Limited
Clyde & Co
Clyde Petroleum Plc
Co-Operative Insurance Society
Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages
Colin Buckle & Company
Colonia - Baltica Insurance Management
Colour Library Books Limited
Combined Insurance Company of America
Commercial Union Assurance
Congregational & General Ins. Plc
Conrad Ritblat
Coopers & Lybrand
Coopers & Lybrand (South Coast Practice)
Cornhill Life
Corporate Risk Plc
Costain Skanska JV
Coutts & Co
Coutts Career Consultants
Credit Agricole
Credit Suisse
Cresta Insurance Brokers
Crown Windows
Curtis Holt Ltd
Customblend Ingredients Ltd
D Norman & Sons
DFDS Transport Ltd
DPSC Executive Search
Dana Commercial Credit Limited
Daniel Thwaites Plc
Danisco Pack
Data Conectivity Services Ltd
Data Connection Ltd
Datastream International
David Patton & Sons (N.I.)
Davenham Group Plc.
Deloitte & Touche
Dencourt Trucks
Denton Hall Solicitors
Department of Economic Development
Derbyshire Building Society
Derry Landscapes & Garden Design
Design & Innovation
Devonport Management Limited
Dickinson & Co
Digital Co Ltd
Digital Equipment Co Ltd
Doberman - Horsman
Doig & Smith
Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette
Doncaster Rugby Union Football Club
Donn and Co.
Dore Metal Services
Dow Chemical Co Ltd
Dowell
Dow Jones Telerate
Downie Wilson C.A.
Drake Tooling & Abrasives Ltd
Drakes Group Ltd
Du Pont (UK) Ltd
Dudley Stationery Limited
Dun & Bradstreet
Duracell Batteries Ltd
Dwellcourt Ltd
E B S
E.H. Smith (Westhaven) Ltd
ESSE Ltd
Eagle Star Life
East Midlands Airport
Eaton Public Relations Ltd
Ede Holdings Ltd
Edge & Ellison
Edmundson Electrical Ltd
Edward Billington (Sugar) Ltd
Edward Lewis
Elan Computing
Electrical Review
Electrolux Group Ltd
Ernst & Young
Essex Shipping Services Limited
Estdale Ltd
Eugena Ltd
Eurocup
Europa - European Express Limited
Eversheds (East Midlands) Solicitors
Excalibur Group Holdings Ltd
Exco Moneybroking UK Ltd
Expro International Group Plc
Expro North Sea Ltd
F C Foreman & Partners
Fairways Ltd
Falcon Panel Products Ltd
Fibernet Limited
Financial Management Bureau Ltd
Finning Ltd
Firmenich UK Ltd
First National Building Society
Fishburn Boxer
Fitzwilton Plc
Fleet Financial NI Ltd
Fleetlease (UK) Ltd
Forbes & Company
Forbes & Partners
Forbo - CP Ltd
Fork Truck Maintenance
Foster Lewis Stone
Foster Yeoman Ltd
Four Square Division of Mars UK Ltd
Frank McCabe Civil Engineering Ltd
Franklin Williams & Foy/BDO Stoy
Fredrickson International Ltd
Frenkel Topping
Frodsham Charity Golf/Wooden Spoon Chlge
G W S (UK) Shoplifting Ltd
GEC Plessey Semiconductors
GKN Plc
Garton Engineering Plc
General Signal Networks
Generale des Eaux
Gerald Limited
Girlings Solicitors
Glasson Group (Lancaster)
Godsell Astley & Pearce Ltd
Godwins Limited
Grain & Feed Trade Association
Grant Thornton
Grayside Limited
Greenwoods Solicitors
Greystone Leisure Ltd
Guardforce (GB) Ltd
Guardian Insurance Plc
H P S S
H Turner & Son Ltd
H.M. Customs & Excise - Investigation Di
H.S. Pipequipment Ltd
HSBC Gibbs Ltd
Hammond Suddards
Halcrow Fox
Halifax Property Services
Halliwell Landau
Hancocks Holdings Ltd
Hamson Wills
Harte Shop Equipment Limited
Harvest Agricultural Supplies
Haselden Nuttall Distribution Limited
Havelet Trust Company (International) Ltd
Hays Express Services
Hays Rentacrate
Hayward
Halsby Electrical & Building Services
Henry Cooper Masters - British
Henry Draper & Co Ltd
Hewitson Becke & Shaw
Hextall Erskine & Co
Hill Price Dawson Ltd
Hodgsons
Holland & Sherry Ltd
Honeywell Control Systems Ltd
Hoogovens Steel Service Centre Ltd
Hugh James Solicitors
Hyatt Hotels & Resorts
Hymans Robertson Consulting Actuaries
I B H Euxton Hall Hospital
IBC Group Plc
IBH Berkshire Independent Hospital
IBH Cumbrian Hospital
IBH Greater Manchester
IBH Midland Hospitals
IBH North Down Hospital
ICL Financial Services
I C L (North)
IVECO Ford
ITM Ltd
Ian Scott & Company
Iceland Frozen plc
Imperial Tobacco Limited
Ince & Co
Industrial Scaffold Group Ltd
Intech Promotions Ltd
Integrated Engineering Projects
Interface Europe Ltd
Interior PLC
International Petroleum Exchange
Invicta Radio Group
Ireland Freight Services
J Howitt & Son Ltd
J Rothschild Assurance Plc
J T Thorpe & Son Ltd
JBA (UK) Limited
JET
JR Taylor Whitehead Ltd
Jacksons Chartered Accountants
Jaguar Centre (Hull) Ltd
James & Cowper
James Martin & Co
John Drake & Company
John Fyfe Limited
John Good & Sons Group
John Hornby Skewes & Co Ltd
John Scott & Partners Ltd
Johnson & Higgins
Jotun-Henry Clark Ltd
Julian Hodge Bank
K F J Resourcing Ltd
K.T. Electrics
KPMG
Keddy Services Limited
Kennedys
Kerr McGee Oil (UK)
Keystone Valves UK Ltd
Kia Cars (UK) Ltd
Kidde Graviner
Kidsons Impey
Kingspan Building Products Ltd
Kinnarps UK Ltd
Kodak Ltd
Kruger Tissue Group
Kvaerner H & G Offshore Ltd
LPH Group Plc
La Manga Property Services
Lace Mawer
Laing Homes Ltd
Lamco Paper Sales Ltd
Langford & Thomson
Lantern Engineering Limited
Lawrence Graham
Lawson Mardon Packaging
Lawson Mardon Star Ltd
Leach Bright
Lease Portfolio Management
Lee & Priestley Solicitors
Levy Gee
Liberty
Lincoln National
Lloyds Bank Plc Corporate Banking
Lombard
Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd
London Bullion Market Association
London International Financial
London Metal Exchange Golf Association
Lonsdale Travel Group
Lockers
Lookers Planned Motoring Limited
Lorne Stewart Plc
Lovell White Durrant
Luddon Construction Ltd
Lyon Pitcher
M D Foods Ingredients (UK) Ltd
M D I S
M J Gleeson Group Plc
M M I Ltd
M V A
MITIE Group PLC
MacIntyre Hudson - Chartered Accountants
Mace & Jones Grundy Kershaw
Macnaughton Blair & Co Ltd
Magnet Security Systems Ltd
Man Truck & Bus UK Ltd
Management Science Ltd
Manchester Publicity Association
Mann Motorships Ltd
Market Harborough Building Society
Marks & Spencer
Marsh & McLennan Global Broking Ltd
Mast International Organisation Plc
Maxus Ltd
Mayspring Civil Service Sports Ass.
McClure Watters
McCormick (UK) Plc
McDermott Marine Construction Ltd
McDougall Rose
McEwan Wallace
McGregor Boyall Associates
McKenna & Co
McNicholas Construction
Measure - Rite Ltd
MeesPierson NV
MeesPierson Securities (UK) Ltd
Meggitt Plc
Memorex Telex (Uk) Ltd
Mercury Communications Ltd
Meridian Business Support Plc
Merita Bank London Branch
Microsoft Limited
Midland Shires Farmers Ltd
Mills Associates Ltd
Mobil Oil Company Ltd
Moger & Sparrow (Solicitors)
Monklands & Bellshill Hospitals NHS Trust
Monsanto Plc
Moresecure Ltd
Morganite Thermal Ceramics Ltd
Morley Group Ltd
Mortgage Trust Ltd
Motorcycle City Ltd
Mott MacDonald
Muller International Ltd
Munich Re Life Services Ltd
N B Selection Ltd
N C M
N H S Wales
N I C S Sports Association
NHG Timber Ltd
NHS UK
NWS Bank Plc
Napier Blakeley Winter
Nat West Mortgage Services
NatWest
National Farmers Union Hunts & Berks
National Mutual Life
National Westminster Bank
National Westminster Plc
Nationwide Building Society
Needham Enterprises Ltd
Nelson Bakewell
Nestle Uk Ltd
Neville Russell
New Boston Partners Ltd
Newmans of Canterbury BMW
Next Plc
Nicholson, Graham & Jones Solicitors
Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd
Norson Power Ltd
Nortel
North East Water Plc
North West Auto Trader Ltd
Northern Electric
Northern Friends of A R M S
Northgate Motor Holdings Ltd
Nova Travel Limited
Nuclear Electric Ltd
O S Intergration Plc
O'Mahony Farrelly
Oce UK Ltd
Oceanroutes (UK) Ltd
Olivetti Lexikon UK Ltd
One 2 One
Ora Electronics (UK) Ltd
Orchard Toys
Origin UK SAP
Orion Engineering Services Limited
Osborne Morris & Morgan
Overbury Plc
Oyez Stationery
Oyster Terminals Ltd
P. A. Business Systems Ltd
PDFM Limited
PHH Vehicle Management Services
PM Group of Companies
Pall Europe Ltd
Pannell Kerr Forster
Paper Makers' Allied Trades Association
Paramount Plc
Park Electrical Services
Park Lane Investments (Scotland) Ltd
Paul . Davidson . Taylor
Paull & Williamsons
Persona Plc
Peter Marsh & Sons Ltd
Peterborough United Football Club
Petroline Wireline Services
Pfizer
Philips Petroleum Co UK Ltd
Pilkington UK Ltd Aqua Glass
Pinewood
Pinnacle Trustees Limited
Pitney Bowes Plc
Plato Computer Services (UK) Ltd
Plexus Cotton Ltd
Polycell Products Ltd
Polycon Packaging
Pork Farms Bowyers
Porvair Plc
Posford Duvivier
Power Testing Limited
Prebon Yamane
Premier Administration Ltd
Premier Properties Plc
Price Waterhouse
Professional Systems Personnel Ltd
Provend Services Ltd
Pro-Sport International
Prudential Bache (Futures) Ltd
Quay Advertising & Marketing
R J Maxwell & Son Ltd
RDM Factors Limited
R P M S Technology
RSBS Group
Rabobank, London Branch
Ranger Oil (UK) Limited
Rank Cintel Ltd
Rank Xerox (UK) Ltd
Ravenfield Computers Ltd
Reed Aviation Ltd
Regency Office Systems Plc
Reliance National Ins Co (UK) Ltd
Rentokil Ltd
Reservoir Management Ltd
Resin Express Limited
Reuters Ltd
Reuters Ltd (Columba)
Rice-Jones & Smiths
Richard Ellis
Ridge & Partners
Rieter - Scragg Ltd
Rigblast Energy Services Ltd
Robert Fleming & Co Ltd
Robert Keys Group
Robert Whowell & Partners
Roberts & Partners
Ross Hall Hospital
Rowe & Maw
RoyScot Jersey Limited
Royscot Guernsey Limited
Rudolf Wolff & Co Ltd
Russells Supplies Ltd
Rutherford Young
S C.C. Limited
SEC Solutions
SIP DIXI (UK) LTD
SMC Pneumatics (UK) Ltd
STC Submarine Systems Ltd
Sable Properties Ltd
Safeway Stores Plc
Sage Financial Services Ltd
Sanctuary Housing Association
Satchwell Grant
Saveheat Insulations Ltd
Schenck Ltd
Scientific and Business Systems Ltd
Scott-White & Hookins
Scottish Oils Ltd
Sea Containers Services Ltd
Seaforths Travel Ltd
Seddon Packaging & Printing Ltd
Sedgwick Reinsurance Brokers Ltd
Service Tec Int. Ltd
Seton Healthcare Group Plc
Sewercare Ltd
Shandon Leisure
Sharpe & Fisher (Building Supplies) Ltd
Shaw & Co Limited
Shell UK Exploration & Production
Sherwood Systems Ltd
Shire Leasing Plc
Short Bros Plc
Siemens Nixdorf Information Systems Ltd
Silver Levene
Simpsons Malt Limited
Singer & Friedlander (Isle of Man) Ltd
Sitex Security Products Ltd
Skipton Building Society
Smith & Williamson
Smith Barney
Societe Generale
Software Personnel Plc
Sonitrol
Southern Cross
Spectus Systems Ltd
Standard Life Assurance Company
Star Micronics U.K. Limited
Stefes Plant Protection
Stewart & Stevenson (UK) Ltd
Stones Jones
Strategic Asset Management Solutions
Style Life Windows
Summers & Partners
Sun Alliance - Personal Lines Division
Sun Electric UK Limited
Sunblest Bakeries
Swale Chamber of Commerce
Swan National Leasing Limited
Sykes International Limited
Systems Union Ltd
T S B Bank Plc
T G Armstrong & Partners
TDK (UK) Ltd Components Division
TMD Carat
TMG Financial Products
TNT Express Worldwide
Talkland International
Tamakis Plc
Tankfreight
Taylor Joynson Garrett
Taylor Nelson AGB
Telford Police Annual Charity Golf Day
Tetra Laval
Thames Water Plc
Thames Water Contracting Plc
The Antony Gibbs Consulting Group
The Boughton Group
The British Land Company Plc
The British Precast Concrete Federation
The Cable Corporation
The Change Partnership Ltd
The Chase Manhattan Corporation
The Children's Appeal
The Diocese of Rochester
The Electrical Contractors Ass SE Region
The J Rothschild Partnership
The Lamp Company
The Littlewoods Organisation Plc
The Lloyd Group
The London Clearing House Limited
The Marketing & Communications Business
The Mayflower Corporation Plc
The Miller Insurance Group Limited
The National Grid Company Plc
The Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co
The Priory Hospital
The Rangeley Company (C.I.) Limited
The Royal Mail - Olympic Sponsorship
The Status Group Plc
The Times City Diary Square Mile -
Golf Challenge
The Vodafone Centre
The W M Group
The Washington Hospital
Thermal Transfer (Scotland) Ltd
Threadneedle Asset Management
Tipp-Ex Limited
Tony Mossop Engineering Ltd
Toshiba (UK) Ltd
Townsend's Solicitors
Trade Indemnity - Heller Commercial Finance
Trade Indemnity Plc
Travis Perkins
Tubular Industries Scotland Ltd
Tullett & Tokyo Forex International
Tullett & Tokyo Int
Turner & Co (Glasgow) Ltd
UAP Provincial Insurance Plc
UDT Ltd
UniForum U K
Uniroyal Chemical Ltd
Unisys Ltd
United Distillers
Unum Limited
Uponor Ltd
VCM Communications
Vanner Shipley & Co
Vernon Building Society
Videotron Corporation
Vizards Solicitors
WDR & RT Taggart
W & J Burness W.S.
W.J. Meade
WT Partnership
Walker Smith & Way
Walon Limited
Ward Knowles Ltd
Waterline Ltd
Watson Wyatt Partners
Waverley Vintners Ltd
Wayzgoose Plc
Weatherall Green & Smith
Webbs (Weston) Ltd
Wedlake Bell
Weir Engineering Services
Welsh Rarebits
Whitbread Beer Company
Whitbread Plc
White Young
Whyte & Mackay
Willis Corroon
Willis Corroon Management (Isle of Man)
Willis Corroon North Ltd
Winchester White Limited
Wogen Group Ltd
Wooden Spoon Society
Wooden Spoon Society (Surrey/Sussex)
Wooden Spoon Society - Chilterns Region
Wooden Spoon Society Midlands
Wooden Spoon Society Scotland
Wooden Spoon Society Taunton
World Design & Trade Ltd
Wormald Ansul Ltd
Xdale Ltd
Xenon Computer Systems (IOM) Ltd
Yorkshire Bank Plc
Youngsters Ltd
Yule Catto Consumer Chemicals
Zet Insurance Services Ltd

— TITLE SPONSOR —

MeesPierson

— ASSOCIATE SPONSORS —

CITROËN

BM British Midland

LA MANGA

Marriott. HOTELS · RESORTS · SUITES

WATERFORD CRYSTAL

GOLF WORLD

— OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS —

Barwell Leisure

FIBERNET

NEWStrack

Titleist

* Many of the above Companies registered more than one golf day

CALL 0171 436 3415 OR 0141 221 2225 (SCOTLAND)

Make the most of your company golf day by entering for the 1997 challenge now!

For details of how easy it is to take part, the publicity you will receive in The Times, and the route to the National Final in Spain, call the organisers on the numbers above or write to:

The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Harpenden, Herts AL5 3DL

Oliver Holt on how the Panthers and Jaguars took American football by storm

Novelty acts who have fast become top cats

I rang a relative in Jacksonville on Wednesday night to ask her what it was like to be part of a phenomenon. I wanted to know if what I had heard was true: that more than 40,000 people had left their homes in the small North Florida city in the early hours of last Sunday morning to make their way to the Municipal Stadium and welcome home their Jaguars.

She said that the reports were right. She knew because she had driven her teenage children to the stadium at about 11pm, after they had watched the Jaguars, a team that did not even exist 18 months ago, stun the nation by beating Denver Broncos to move within one victory of an appearance in the Super Bowl in New Orleans later this month.

They waited there for more than three hours until the players arrived back from Colorado. The head coach, Tom Coughlin, made a speech. So, too, did the quarterback, Mark Brunell, and the team's leading running back, Natrone Means. The next day, the *Florida Times-Union* devoted its front page to the 30-27 victory, the coming of age. "They're for real," the headline screamed.

Everyone in America knows they are for real, now. Suddenly, a nation that is gripped by Super Bowl fever every January is facing up to the possibility that not only might Jacksonville be in the sport's showpiece event, but that they might also be facing Carolina Panthers, the other new team who skipped into the National Football League (NFL) in the autumn of 1995.

The Panthers unleashed their own tide of "Panthermonium" when they dethroned the Super Bowl champions, Dallas Cowboys, in Charlotte last Sunday. If they beat Green Bay Packers in north-eastern Wisconsin on Sunday and the Jaguars conquer New England Patriots in Massachusetts on the same day, the unthinkable will have happened.

Unthinkable because it is like trying to imagine the 1998 FA Carling Premiership title being won by a football team that has no place in one's consciousness today. The closest parallels, perhaps, are Wimbledon winning the FA Cup in 1988 and Blackburn Rovers' resuscitation culminating in their Premiership triumph in 1995.

Neither achievement, though, comes anywhere near the speed of progress made by the Jaguars and the Panthers, and all in one of the most commercially driven leagues in the world, a league that demanded $140 million entrance fees from both of its new boys when they boosted the league of 28 teams to 30.

When this season started, the Panthers were listed at 75-1 to win the Super Bowl and the Jaguars at 150-1. Now, as the *Los Angeles Times* said last week, they are "in position to become one of sport's all-time novelty acts", a bit like two lowly, unseeded players contesting the men's final at Wimbledon or two rank outsiders racing neck-and-neck for the line in the Derby.

"Carolina would be a seven-point favourite," Bob Scucci, the sports manager at the Stardust Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, said of a match between them. "But betting would be down. We get a lot of action on proposition bets, like John Elway throwing for 300 yards or Michael Irvin making ten catches, but it's kind of tough when you don't know who even plays for these teams."

In New Orleans, the host committee is getting a little nervous. The romance of a Carolina-Jacksonville match is one thing, but the organisers estimate that a Denver versus Dallas encounter would have brought up to 100,000 more fans to the city just to savour the atmosphere rather than actually attend the game in the Superdome.

NFL officials, though, are cock-a-hoop. In a league where parity is striven for unceasingly, they have upped their game considerably since the last time expansion teams were introduced, in 1977. In their second season, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, one of the new teams, won only two of their 14 games.

The success of the Jaguars and the Panthers, a team who even denied San Francisco 49ers their traditional National Football Conference western division title this season, is a tribute to the way the league eased the new boys in and allowed them to compete with the pillars of the *ancien régime*.

The process began in February 1995, seven months before both teams were due to take the field for the first time. The 28 existing clubs were ordered to submit a list of six veteran players each for selection to the expansion teams, who were required to pick a total of at least 30 players each from that phase.

Then, the expansion teams were allowed double the number of picks of the established clubs in the college draft that April, the annual gold mine of leading young talent available to the NFL. The Panthers and the Jaguars were even allowed the first two picks in all seven rounds. In addition to these benefits, both teams had an advantage on expansion clubs of previous years because of the new system of free agency in the NFL, which allows players to move on to another club at the end of their contract.

While the established teams could not extract the maximum advantage from this system, because paying many of the new players' wages might take them over the salary cap they are allocated by the league, the Jaguars and the Panthers had much more leeway to sign free agents because they did not have existing players bringing them close to their wages limit.

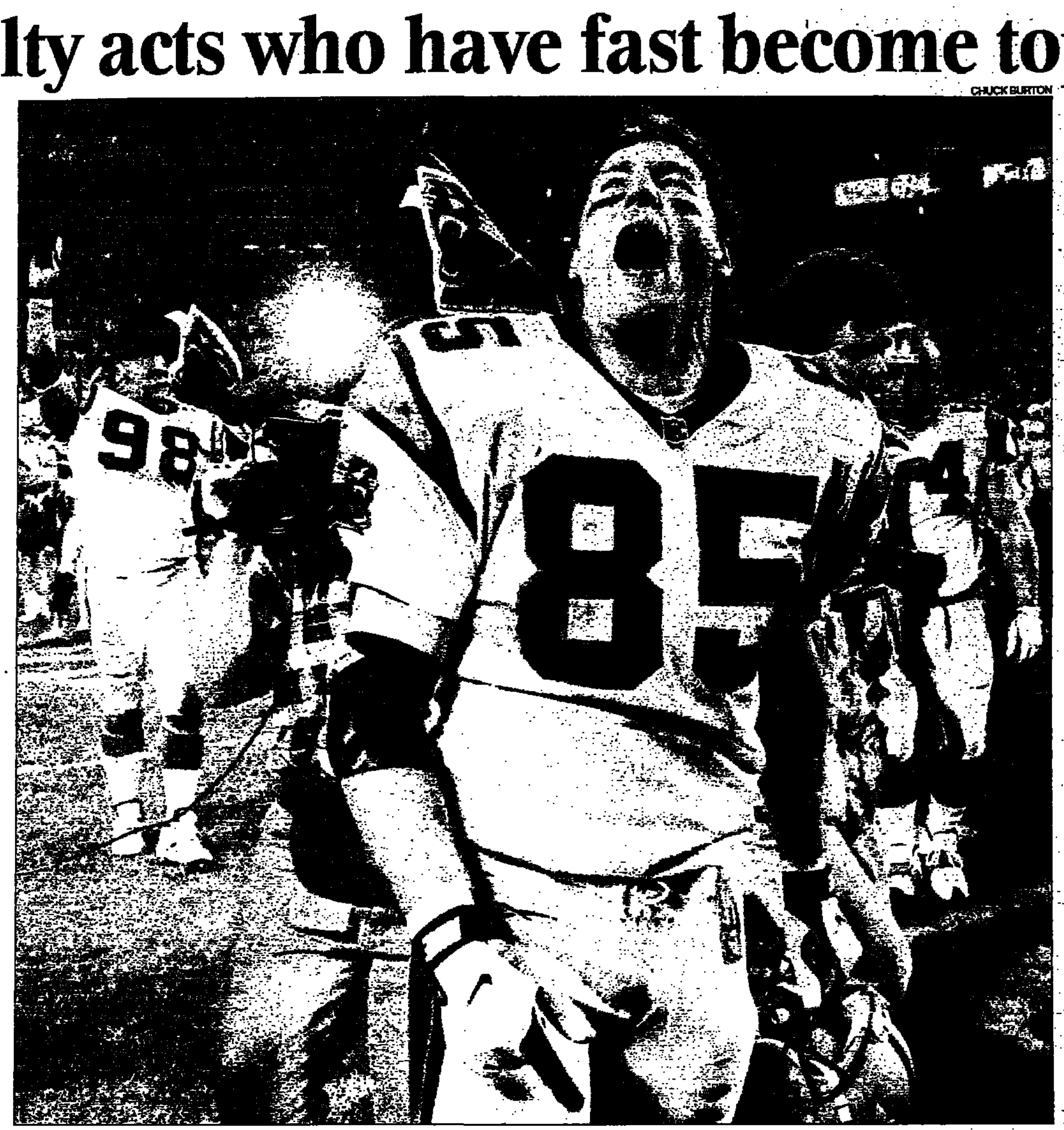
Last season, that allowed the Panthers, for instance, to tempt big-name players such as Kevin Greene away from the Super Bowl runners-up, Pittsburgh Steelers, to the Ericsson Stadium. In Jacksonville, the recruitment of players of a similarly high quality to go with the cast-offs has resulted in all home matches being sold out three years in advance.

The creation of both teams, the acceptance of their bids by the NFL, offers more evidence that the centre of gravity in the United States is moving south. In the 1990 census of the 20 fastest-growing metropolitan areas with more than a million people, 19 were in the south and west.

Perhaps Charlotte may not be every American's idea of an NFL city — "if New York is the city that never sleeps," a professor at the University of North Carolina said, "Charlotte is the town that never wakes" — but together with Jacksonville, it is fast proving the doubters wrong.

Leon Searcy, an offensive tackle with the Jaguars, caught the mood. "The motto around here," he said, "is 'why not us?' "

CHUCK BURTON



Wesley Walls, the Panthers tight end, voices his delight as a night of celebration begins in Charlotte after the defeat of the Dallas Cowboys

'It would be like two unseeded players reaching the final at Wimbledon'

FOOTBALL

Gresley try to link up with the County set

By Richard Hobson and Walter Gammie

THE Baseball Ground, home of Derby County since 1895, could stage non-League football next season after a plea from nearby Gresley Rovers to use the stadium temporarily. Rovers, who reside about 15 miles away, are four points clear at the top of the Dr Martens League premier division with two games in hand and appear to be cruising towards a place in the Vauxhall Conference.

Next month they unveil plans for a new ground, but while work might be completed in time for the 1997-98 season, it will not be ready by the Conference's April 1 deadline for inspection. Derby, themselves, move to new headquarters at the end of the present season and are likely to maintain the Baseball Ground for reserve matches.

Gresley, managed by Paul Futcher and his assistant, Garry Birtles, the former England striker, withdrew their original bid to join the Conference when they were told that a move into Derby represented a breach of rules. Since then it has emerged that the Conference will accept Brighton and Hove Albion, who are bottom of the Nationwide League third division, even if the South Coast club are sharing with Gillingham, as is probable.

However, John Moules, the Conference secretary, said that ground-share schemes have to be in place a year before applications to join, but that a separate agreement commits the Conference to take the bottom club in the third division if the Nationwide League accepts the Conference champions.

Graham Westley, who had his leg broken and his ankle dislocated when leading the attack for Walton and Hersham last season, has returned to football as the manager of Kingstonian.

Westley, 28, is manager of a thriving organisation called Aimita — Attitude is more important than ability — and has put similar energy into his new position.

He has brought in Graham Pearce, the former Enfield manager, as his coach, Jim Brown, with whom he formed a prolific goalscoring partnership for Kingstonian in 1988, and Ron Berry, former physiotherapist at Queens Park Rangers, to breathe new life into the club.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

One of the more difficult plays in the game is to lead into a tenace to give your partner a ruff, hoping that you will later make a trick in the suit with your high card. An example cropped up in the 1995 Malta International Pairs

Dealer North	E-W game	Match-pointed pairs
	♠ A Q 10 3 ♥ Q 9 7 6 ♦ 10 8 4 ♣ A Q	
♠ — ♥ 3 2 ♦ A K Q 9 7 5 2 ♣ 8 7 3 2	N W E S	♠ K J 9 5 4 ♥ A 8 ♦ J 3 ♣ 10 9 6 4
	♠ 8 7 6 2 ♥ K J 10 5 4 ♦ 6 ♣ K J 5	

Contract: Three Hearts by South. **Lead: ace of diamonds.**

Playing five-card majors and a strong no-trump, North opened One Diamond. East overcalled One Spade, and I bid Two Hearts. West passed and North raised conservatively to Three Hearts.

West led the ace and king of diamonds. I ruffed and played a heart to the queen and ace. East took the ace of hearts and returned a heart. The rest was straightforward — I won the heart in dummy, ruffed dummy's third diamond in hand, took three rounds of clubs and played a spade to the ten. When East won she either had to lead into the ace-queen of spades or give a ruff and discard. So at least I made ten tricks, though most declarers made the same ten tricks in Four Hearts.

I hope you can see the defence to hold the declarer to nine tricks. East must play a spade after winning the ace of hearts. West ruffs, and East still comes to the king of spades. I think East might find this defence. As East has bid spades, if West had a spade he surely would have led one through the ace-queen when he held the first trick.

☐ The 1997 Malta Festival will be played in Sliema from February 15 to 21. Details from Mario Dix on 00356 330860; fax 00356 373683.

☐ Refresher articles will resume in a couple of weeks.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Hastings round-up

Today concludes my reports on the annual Hastings Chess Congress, the premier tournament of which has traditionally been the UK's strongest chess tournament since its inception in 1895.

The second tournament at Hastings, known as the challengers section, feeds qualifiers through to the following year's Premier. This year, the challengers section was won in a late burst by the Lithuanian grandmaster Igor Rausis. In so doing, he overtook the early leader, former British champion James Plaskett as well as surpassing Luke McShane, the 13-year-old British prodigy, and the former challenger for the world championship, Muscovite David Bronstein.

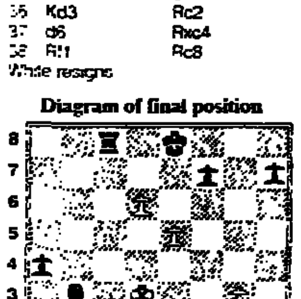
White: [illegible]
Black: Rausis
Hastings Challengers
December 1996

Queen's Gambit

1	d4	d5
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	c6
4	cxd5	exd5
5	Qc2	[illegible]
6	[illegible]	[illegible]
7	[illegible]	[illegible]
8	[illegible]	[illegible]
9	Bd5	[illegible]
10	[illegible]	[illegible]
11	[illegible]	[illegible]
12	[illegible]	[illegible]
13	[illegible]	[illegible]
14	[illegible]	[illegible]
15	[illegible]	[illegible]
16	[illegible]	[illegible]
17	[illegible]	[illegible]
18	[illegible]	[illegible]
19	[illegible]	[illegible]
20	[illegible]	[illegible]
21	[illegible]	[illegible]
22	hxe5	Qg5
23	Qxg5	Rxg5
24	Nf3	Rg6
25	Rae1	Be6
26	Rf2	Rb8
27	Nd2	Nxd2
28	Rxd2	Bd5
29	g3	Ra6
30	Rf2	Rxa2
31	Rxa2	Bxa2
32	Ke3	a5
33	Ra1	Rb2
34	c4	a4
35	d5	Bb3
36	Kd3	Rc2
37	d6	Rxc4
38	Rf1	Rc8

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Hospital fund-raising

On Saturday March 22, I will take on all-comers in a simultaneous to take place in the boardroom of St George's Hospital, Tooting, London SW17. The goal is to raise funds for the St George's Hospital Hold My Hand appeal which aims to raise £1 million for their Children's Intensive Care Unit. Details and entry forms are available from Lucy de Ville, The Appeal Office, St George's Hospital (tel: 0181-725 5090).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HINNY
a. To snigger
b. A bothy
c. An equine

PALINOIA
a. Memory
b. Repetition
c. Italian lace

UROPYGIUM
a. A bird's bottom
b. Euro boredom
c. Glue

GOSSOON
a. Young man
b. A diving bird
c. To weave silk

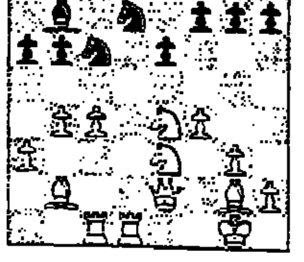
Answers on page 42

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Pogorelov — Lopez Rodriguez, Castellon 1995. It looks as if we might be in for a slow positional struggle, but White swiftly concluded the game in his favour with a fine combination. Can you see it?

Solution on page 42



SPORTS LETTERS

Optimism for future of English cricket

From Mr Richard Penney

Sir, The anticipated demands for more changes in the structures and systems governing English cricket have followed the failures of the English team in Zimbabwe as surely as night follows day. It seems to have been forgotten that the England A team has just returned from a highly successful tour of Australia, while the England Under-19 team has aquitted itself well in Pakistan. Both these teams were organised and selected by the same individuals, within the same systems, as the senior team.

From this distance shortcomings in team management generally and player motivation in particular contributed to the disappointing English performance in Zimbabwe. However, the extent of the disappointment was a direct result of gross over-confidence beforehand in the ability of this English team to outplay Zimbabwe in Zimbabwe.

The sad truth is surely that, with Atherton in such poor form, none of the current English team (with the possible, ironic exception of the rejected Russell) would even be considered for a World XI or even a World Second XI. For the time being, the English cricket team is strictly second division in the international context. If this English team draws the imminent away series against New Zealand, it will have done well.

Being optimistic, the recent feats of the A team and the under-19 players should augur well for the future prospects of English Test cricket, provided the team selection, management and captaincy is sufficiently intelligent and inspirational. Further tinkering with the structures of the English first-class game will be, at best, an irrelevancy.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD PENNEY,
Barrington Cottage,
Longborough,
Moreton-in-Marsh,
Gloucestershire.

From Mr Alan Challoner

Sir, There can be no doubt that top professional sportsmen are working in a privileged situation. How many people, at the higher end of their profession, could get away with a public admission such as Michael Atherton's, that: "I've not been playing [or *working* for the rest of us] well for a year now, and there are technical problems to address . . ."?

Most people in a normal job could expecxt the brown envelope if they had worked as badly as that.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CHALLONER,
13 The Village,
Bodelwyddan, Denbighshire.

From Mr Angus Irvine

Sir, The decline of England's cricket has been inevitable ever since our local education authorities decided, some 15 years ago, to discourage competitive sports, particularly cricket, in state schools and, where possible, to sell off the school playing fields to developers.

At the present time these policies are occasionally reversed, often with the help of Lottery grants towards plant and equipment. But, by and large, today's children do not have the opportunity to play games at school, as previous generations were able to do.

Every one of us who is interersted in the future success of the England cricket team, and in the character-forming benefits of young people being allowed to play sports at school, should take every opportunity to urge school governors to lift these unkind restrictions. At the same time the Government must prohibit the sale of any more school playing fields.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
ANGUS IRVINE,
Nil Farm,
Hook Norton, Oxfordshire.

From Col J. H. McGuinness

Sir, As one who has had no *interest in professional* sport for 60 years, I was fascinated to hear that a chicken farmer took a hat-trick against England (report, January 4). Is there, perhaps, a case for bringing back a few Gentlemen to join the Players in the England side?

Yours faithfully,
JAMES McGUINNESS,
Pen-y-Bont Fach,
Cynwyd, Corwen,
Denbighshire.

From Mr Gavin Choyce

Sir, Banks, Cohen, Wilson, Moore *et al* . . . . Most sports fans of a certain age can recite by heart the names of the only England football team to win the World Cup.

Will today's sports fans come to remember the following list with similar awe and affection: Gooch, Atherton, Hick, Thorpe, Fairbrother, Crawley, Rhodes, Gough, DeFreitas, Udal and Benjamin?

They are, of course, the members of the side which, on a never to be forgotten day in January 1995 at Brisbane, became the only English cricket team ever to win an international cricket match (Test or one-day) against Zimbabwe.

Yours faithfully,
GAVIN CHOYCE,
19 Kildare Terrace, W2.

Productive deal

From Mr Geoff Douglass

Sir, In these days of performance-related pay deals, how many employers offer such lucrative contracts as the Football Association?

After being appointed its technical director, Howard Wilkinson said on radio: "We've got a very good set-up at the moment. What we need is that extra two per cent."

£200,000 a year and all you have to do is get a two per cent productivity improvement. Not a bad deal!

Yours faithfully,
GEOFF DOUGLASS,
3 Gilmore Close,
Ickenham, Middlesex.

Boats at risk on the ocean

From Mr Bill Finnis

Sir, I could scarcely believe my eyes when I saw the picture of a capsized yacht in the Southern Ocean on the front page (January 7). How could anyone in their right mind go to sea in such a vessel? A sixty-foot long "dinghy" that was barely safe to sail on a park lake, an almost non-existent keel, an unsupported rudder and five tons of water as movable ballast.

The utterly unsuitable hull shape should never have been taken to sea, the keel is part of the (to my mind) unseaworthy hull design, and unsupported rudders are notorious for snapping off, even in the seas around the British Isles.

If this boat was taken aback, and this is not unusual when ocean sailing, the water ballast would have shifted to the lower side and, with the help of the wind on the wrong side of the sails and the hull shape, the boat would have had no choice but to capsize whether the skipper was asleep or awake — and he could have done nothing to stop it.

For many years there have been thousands of yachties quietly crossing oceans and getting there safely under their own steam. They, too, met excessive winds and seas, but they set out in properly equipped boats designed to go to sea and cause no problems for others to clear up. Not for them the expensive searches by merchant shipping, naval vessels and aircraft and all done without the ballyhoo that accompanies these ocean racing characters.

Yours sincerely,
BILL FINNIS,
Tamariu,
Turpins Lane,
Kirby Cross,
Essex.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

National Hunt on course for return

TURF racing is set to resume at Musselburgh today provided the course passes a 7.30am inspection. Frost and snow have prevented National Hunt action since Musselburgh's fixture on December 27 and, although the same track suffered a late abandonment last Saturday, clerk of the course, Mark Kershaw, is confident today's fixture will proceed.

"It has been raining today, we haven't had any frost and the course is raceable with the temperature rising to 4C," he said. "But there is a slight frost forecast for tonight with the temperature expected to rise to 3-4C during the day. Bearing in mind what happened last Saturday, we will hold an inspection at 7.30."

At Ascot, clerk of the course, Nick Cheyne, held two inspections of the track today, but on each occasion returned with bad news. Cheyne called off today's card after checking the course at 8am, then abandoned tomorrow's Victor Chandler card after a 3pm inspection.

Warwick tomorrow also fell to frost after an inspection this afternoon, but the prospects for tomorrow's card at Newcastle look bright. "We could have raced today and, provided the weather stays as it is, we should be all right," a course spokeswoman said.

☐ Channel 4 will cover five races live from Wolverhampton's all-weather fixture tomorrow.

PROSPECTS

TOMORROW'S MEETINGS
LINGFIELD PARK: all-weather.
ASCOT: abandoned.
NEWCASTLE: good to soft (hopeful).
WARWICK: abandoned.
WOLVERHAMPTON: all-weather.

Carl Evans on a point-to-point season whose attractions will be brought to television

JULIAN HERBERT

Curling, three times a national point-to-point riders' champion, shows the style she hopes will regain her the title from Dare

Screen test confirms appeal

The annual adventure of the point-to-point season is likely to have to wait another week before the tapes rise. The fixtures at Larkhill tomorrow and Cottenham on Sunday have fallen to frost, while icy Tweseldown inspects at noon today. There is little likelihood of a rise in temperature sufficient to thaw the turf.

The pity about the loss of Larkhill's Army meeting is that it would have greeted the first live television coverage of point-to-pointing. *The Racing Channel* was to broadcast six races, a glowing tribute to a sport which is slowly shedding its image as a bit of farmland fun.

Farmers still gain huge pleasure in taking part but Walter Dennis did not win the Hennessy Gold Cup with Coome Hill by using him to round up sheep. When it comes to training and riding a thorough preparation is needed nowadays, and the modern point-to-point yard invariably is aware of Martin Pipe's methods.

The Racing Channel planned to cover four meetings this season and will be back at Larkhill on February 1.

It is hard to predict what effect *The Racing Channel's* involvement will have on this supremely uncomplicated amateur sport, but it would be sad if video tape leads to red tape.

One possible scenario, if television coverage is increased, is the introduction of overnight declarations, letting armchair viewers know who is taking part. The sport will look silly if a broadcaster's welcoming address includes the line: "Fantus is the star today, but we don't know if he's running."

Horses are declared to run up to 45 minutes before the off, a charmingly simple way of doing things, but for how much longer? And overnight declarations would enable off-course betting.

Television does provide a carrot to sponsors. The parcel carriers, Interlink Express, and the stockbrokers, Greig Middleton, who are each to sponsor a series of races, were made aware of the coming cameras. Unhappily, Land Rover's one chance to be on television tomorrow has succumbed to the weather.

Among competitors some bright new talent is pushing for the top, albeit towards an uncertain future. A General Election will take place during this season and a Labour Government would allow a free vote on hunting. A ban would wipe away the roots of the sport.

The investment in hunting and all its related aspects — feed, farriers, saddlers and so on — is huge, while point-to-pointing's fiscal role also grows rapidly. For investors, all-weather gallops seem a commodity to be in and most big yards now have one, or access to one. Bert Lavis, the trainer, loves working his horses on the beach near Haverfordwest but with 20 horses in training he was forced to install an all-weather surface last summer as a labour-saving device.

The Welshman is ready to power Jamie Jukes to his second title and the combination could reign supreme with the likes of Cedar Square and Northern Bluff in their squad. Pip Jones has sound prospects of making it a double for Wales by taking the women's title although her best horse, Handsome Harvey, is sidelined by injury. The mare who took his title last season as the most successful pointer, Phar Too Touchy, will find life tougher in hunter chases but her Devon-based trainer, Victor Dartnall, can seemingly do little wrong.

Dick Baimbridge has been around a little longer and he and Alison Dare were an unbeatable duo last year when she gained her sixth national title. Richard Barber and Caroline Saunders always have good horses to call upon. Fantus, the 1995 Cheltenham Foxhunters' winner, is back with Barber after a year off and the yard has some very good riders too, notably Polly Curling and Tim Mitchell, and the much-acclaimed youngster Joe Tizzard. Shropshire-based Sheila Crow relies mainly on son Alastair to ride her team of about 25 horses.

Many of the top hunter chasers are sidelined, including Ireland's Elegant Lord, although Flashing Steel will take some stopping now he is in this sphere. Britain's best hope of holding him at bay could be Master Kit, trained in Fife by farmer Jeremy Billinge.

1997 FIXTURES

January
11: Army at Larkhill (abandoned)
12: Cambs Harriers, Cottenham (postponed until January 19); Garth & South Berks, Tweseldown (inspection noon today)
18: Easton Harriers, Higham
19: Point-to-Point Owners & Riders Club, Barbury Castle
25: Hursley Hambledon, Badbury Rings
26: Essex Farmers and Union, Marks Tey; West Percy & Milvain, Alnwick.

February
1: New Forest at Larkhill; North Cornwall, Wadebridge; Old Raby, Witton Castle; Oxford University, Kingston Blount; Thurlow, Horseheath.
2: North Western Area Club, Wolverhampton; Lincolnshire, Market Rasen
8: East Cornwall, Great Trethew; South Dorset, Milborne St Andrew
9: Badsworth, Wetherby; Cambridge University Draghounds, Cottenham; Northumberland, Alnwick; Midlands Area Club, Thorpe; Tweseldown Club, Tweseldown
15: Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire, Lanark; South Pool Harriers, Ottery St Mary; United Services, Larkhill; Vale Of Clettwr, Erw Lon; Waveney Harriers, Higham; West Shropshire, Weston Park.
16: Cranwell Draghounds, Southwell; Farmers Draghounds, Heythrop
22: Berwickshire, Friars Haugh; Bolventor Harriers, Lemalla; Brocklesby, Brocklesby Park; North Hereford, Whitwick; Sinnington, Duncombe Park; Suffolk, Ampton
23: Mid Surrey Farmers Draghounds, Charing

March
1: Beaufort at Didmarton; Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray, Parham; East Devon, Clyst St Mary; East Essex, Marks Tey; Flint and Denbigh, Eaton Hall; Tynedale, Corbridge
2: Burton, Market Rasen; South Durham, Great Stainton; South Herefordshire, Garnons; South Midlands, Mollington
8: Avon Vale, Barbury Castle; Brecon and Talybont, Llanfrynach; Cumberland Farmers, Dalston; Derwent, Charm Park; North Ledbury, Upton-on-Severn; North Norfolk Harriers, Higham; Oakley, Newton Bromswold; South Cornwall, Great Trethew; South East, Charing; Tanatside, Eyton-on-Severn
9: Blankney, Southwell; Staff College & RMA Draghounds, Tweseldown
15: Dunston Harriers, Ampton; Gelligaer Farmers, Magor; Holderness, Dalton Park; New Forest Buckhounds, Larkhill; Quantock Staghounds, Cothelstone; Western, Wadebridge
16: Carmarthenshire, Erw Lon; Cottesmore, Garthorpe; Dart Vale and Haldon Harriers, OtterySt Mary; Eglinton, Lanark; Ross Harriers, Garnons; West Street-Tickham, Detling
22: Cambridgeshire, Horseheath; Crawley & Horsham, Parham; Duke of Buccleuch's, Friars Haugh; Hurworth, Hutton Rudby; Lamerton, Kilworthy; Llangibby, Bowick; Mendip Farmers, Castle of Comfort; Vale of White Horse, Siddington; Wilton, Badbury Rings
23: Mid Devon, Clyst St Mary; Sir W W Wynn's, Eaton Hall; South Wold, Brocklesby Park
29: Ashford Valley, Charing; Cattistock, Little Windsor; Cleveland, Stainton; Clifton on Teme, Upper Sapey; Essex, High Easter; Monmouthshire, Llanvapley; North Staffordshire, Sandon; Percy, Alnwick; Spooners & West Dartmoor, CherryBrook; Tedworth, Barbury Castle; United Pack, Brampton Bryan; Vale of Aylesbury, Kimble; Vale of Lune, Whittington; Woodland Pytchley, Dingley
31: East Kent, Aldington; Eggesford, Bishopsleigh; Essex Farmers, Marks Tey; Four Burrow, Wadebridge; Morpeth, Tranwell; North Cotswold, Paxford; Old Berkshire, Lockinge; South Nottinghamshire, Thorpe; South Pembrokeshire, Lydstep; South Shropshire, Eyton on Severn; Southdown and Eridge, Heathfield; Staintondale, Charm Park; Taunton Vale, Kingston St Mary; Vine and Craven, Hackwood Park

April
1: Croome & West Warwickshire at Upton on Severn; High Peak Harriers, Flagg Moor
5: Bramham Moor, Wetherby; Curre, Howick; Fitzwilliam (Milton), Cottenham; Royal Artillery, Larkhill
6: Belvoir, Garthorpe; Blackmore & Sparkford Vale, Charlton Horethorne; Cheshire Forest, Tabley; Jedforest, Friars Haugh; Silverton, Black Forest Lodge; Tivyside, Pantyderi; West Kent, Penshurst; Windsor Forest, Tweseldown
8: Heythrop, Heythrop
12: Bicester with Whaddon Chase, Kingston Blount; Braes of Derwent, Tranwell; Cheshire, Alpraham; Glamorgan, St Hilary; Ludlow, Bitterley; Portman, Badbury Rings; Puckeridge, Horseheath; Tetcott, Lifton; West Somerset Vale, Cothelstone
13: Dumfriesshire, Lockerbie; Hampshire, Hackwood Park; Ledbury, Maisemore Park; Middleton, Whitwell-on-the-Hill; Pytchley, Guilsborough
16: Tiverton, Hockworthy
19: Bedale & West of Yore, [illegible]; Dartmoor, Flete Park; Essex & Suffolk, Higham; Holcombe, Whittington; Old Surrey and Burstow, Penshurst; Pentyrch, Bonvilston; South & West Wilts, Larkhill; Worcestershire, Chaddesley Corbett
20: Axe Vale, Stafford Cross; Grafton, Mollington; Haydon, Hexham; Meynell & South Staffordshire, Sandon; Pembrokeshire, Lydstep; Quorn, Garthorpe
23: Cotswold, Andoversford
26: Atherstone, Clifton-on-Dunsmore; Berkeley, Woodford; Fife, Balcormo Mains; Llangeinor, Margam; Teme Valley, Brampton Bryan; Tiverton Staghounds, Bratton Down; York & Ainsty, Easingwold
27: Berks & Bucks Drag, Barbury Castle; East Sussex & Romney Marsh, Bexhill; Grove & Rufford, Southwell; Seavington, Little Windsor; West Norfolk, Fakenham

May
3: Albrighton at Weston Park; Cambridgeshire University United, Cottenham; Devon & Somerset Staghounds, Holnicote; Harkaway Club, Chaddesley Corbett; Lauderdale, Mosshouses; Modbury Harriers, Flete Park; Pendle Forest & Craven, Gisburn
4: Fernie, Dingley
5: Banwen Miners, Pantyderi; Cotley, Cotley Farm; Enfield Chace, Northaw; North Shropshire, Eyton on Severn; Radnor & West Herefordshire, Cursneh Hill; Stevenstone, High Bickington; Warwickshire (E), Ashorne; West Street-Tickham, Aldington; Zetland, Witton Castle
10: Bilsdale, Easingwold; Cumberland, Aspatria; East Anglian, Marks Tey; Minehead Harriers & West Somerset, Holnicote; Surrey Union, Peper Harow; Vale of Aylesbury, Kingston Blount
11: Cotswold Vale Farmers (E), Maisemore Park; Isle of Wight and Thames Valley, Tweseldown; Llandeilo, Erw Lon; Melton, Garthorpe; South Devon, Ottery St Mary
14: Western and Banwell, Cothelstone
17: Border, Corbridge; Dulverton West, Bratton Down; Golden Valley, Bredwardine; Ystrad Taf Fechan, Bassaleg
18: Bicester with Whaddon Chase, Mollington; Wheatland, Wolverhampton
24: Dulverton East, Mounsey Hill Gate; Tredegar Farmers, Bassaleg
26: Albrighton Woodland, Chaddesley Corbett; South Tetcott, Lifton
31: Exmoor, Bratton Down.

June
1: Harborough at Dingley
8: Torrington Farmers, Umberleigh

(E) denotes evening meeting

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

12.05 Bold Aristocrat
12.30 Fresh Fruit Daily
12.55 Moon Devil
1.20 Kinnescash
1.55 Shakiyr
2.25 Klipspinger
2.55 Albaha
3.25 Elton Ledger
3.55 Oneoftheoldones

Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 FRESH FRUIT DAILY.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 12.30 Mr Speculator. 12.55 In The Van. 2.55 ALBAHA (nap).

GOING: STANDARD. DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.05 RYEGRASS HANDICAP (Div I: £1,944: 6f) (11 runners)

101	(4)	11414-1	LEIGH CROFTER 8 (B,C,D,F,G,S) (P Condell) P Condell 8-10-4 (7ex)	R Perham	96
102	(2)	033203-	BOLD ARISTOCRAT 14 (CD,G) (Mrs J Hughes) R Hollinshead 6-9-9	F Lynch (3)	97
103	(9)	0060-	SERAPE 153 (Mrs L Stubbs) Mrs L Stubbs 4-9-7	S Drowne	89
104	(6)	65255-5	ANITA'S CONTESSA 8 (G) (Mrs A Quinn) B Palling 5-9-0	T Sprake	98
105	(11)	044356-	BALINSKY 13 (V) (Mrs J Martin) J Berry 4-8-12	P Roberts (5)	93
106	(10)	052406-	SOUND THE TRUMPET 14 (G) (R Spicer) R Spicer 5-8-11	D McKeown	94
107	(5)	4/0341-	RIVER SEINE 10 (G) (Mrs G Withers) S Knight 5-8-11 (7ex)	S Sanders	96
108	(1)	546000-	DISSENTOR 38 (V,CD,G) (B Eastick) J Glover 5-8-6	G Carter	92
109	(8)	80600-2	THICK AS THIEVES 6 (D,F,G) (R Thompson) R Thompson 5-8-5	P Fessey (5)	[illegible]
110	(3)	03350F-	OSCILIGHTS GIFT 10 (Mrs P Stroud) M Campion 5-7-10	N Adams	94
111	(7)	000000-	BALLYKISSANGEL 14 (B) (Kendall White & Co) N Bycroft 4-7-10	G Bardwell	80

Long handicap: Oscilights Gift 7-7, Ballykissangel 7-3.

BETTING: 5-2 Leigh Crofter, 5-1 Bold Aristocrat, 11-2 River Seine, 7-1 Serape, Sound The Trumpet, 12-1 others.

1996: DISSENTOR 4-8-10 G Carter (12-1) J Glover 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

LEIGH CROFTER beat Sooty Tern 2l in 8-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 7f). BOLD ARISTOCRAT about 1½l 3rd of 9 to Kalar in handicap over course and distance (AW). SERAPE 8l 7th of 14 to Lough Erne in handicap at Lingfield (6f, good to firm). ANITA'S CONTESSA about 6¼l 5th of 10 to Ballard Lady in handicap over course and distance (AW). RIVER SEINE beat Gold Lance 1¾l in 10-runner maiden at Lingfield (AW, 7f). THICK AS THIEVES 1l 2nd of 11 to Sharp Imp in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 6f).
Selection: BOLD ARISTOCRAT

12.30 BUTTERCUP AMATEURS HANDICAP (Div I: £1,735: 1m 3f) (12 runners)

201	(8)	100313-	IHTIMAAM 38 (CD,G) (Upex Electrical) Mrs A Swinbank 5-11-7	Chris Wilson	89
202	(12)	65/5006-	SPITFIRE BRIDGE 23J (F,G) G McCourt 5-11-8	A Wintle (5)	85
203	(2)	000/0-	RUMPELSTILTSKIN 49 (D Crabb) H Howe 5-10-9	R Widger (5)	—
204	(3)	80U31-2	MR SPECULATOR 6 (V,F,G) (The Speculators) J Banks 4-10-7	T McCarthy	86
205	(6)	06340-5	SEA GOD 4 (CD,G) (McCann Hire) M Chapman 6-10-6	K Loads (5)	90
206	(5)	060000-	FORGET PARIS 38 (B Rothwell) B Rothwell 4-10-5	R Thornton	—
207	(7)	00300-1	FRESH FRUIT DAILY 9 (CD,G) (K Hudson) P Kelleway 5-10-2	Miss P Jones	[illegible]
208	(11)	435600	SUMMER VILLA 1373 (C,G) K Wingrove 5-9-13	Mrs H Noonan (5)	84
209	(10)	006/	FLY BY NORTH 272J (Ford Farm Racing) D Nicholson 9-9-10	Miss E Williams (5)	—
210	(4)	000000-	PHANAN 21 (F,G) (R Peacock) R Peacock 11-9-6	Mrs C Peacock (5)	89
211	(1)	3060-52	ROYAL ACCLAIM 4 (V,C,F,G,S) (D Foster) R Dickin 12-9-5	Miss R J Patman (5)	85
212	(9)	060000-	NORD LYS 148J (N Reath) B Llewellyn 6-9-0	Miss E J Jones (5)	—

Long handicap: Nord Lys 8-9.

BETTING: 5-2 Fresh Fruit Daily, 3-1 Ihtimaam, 4-1 Mr Speculator, 8-1 Sea God, Spitfire Bridge, 10-1 Royal Acclaim, 14-1 Summer Villa, 16-1 others.

1996: MODEST HOPE 9-10-3 Mrs D Kettlewell (10-1) B Richmond 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

SPITFIRE BRIDGE about 7l 6th of 13 to Owdbetts in selling handicap at Bath (1m 2f, good to firm). MR SPECULATOR 5l 2nd of 9 to The Great Flood in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 6f). FRESH FRUIT DAILY beat Hever Golf Eagle 12l in 10-runner apprentice auction maiden over course and distance (AW). PHANAN 18l 10th of 12 to Zono Flyer in amateurs conditions race at Lingfield (AW, 1m 4f).
ROYAL ACCLAIM 7l 2nd of 8 to Down The Yard in apprentice handicap here (AW, 1m).
Selection: FRESH FRUIT DAILY

12.55 LEVY BOARD STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,319: 2m) (16 runners)

301	6-1	SLIDE ON 20 (D,S) (P Evans) P Evans 7-11-11	Gary Lyons	—
302	11	MRS EM 32 (D,F,S) (G Mizel) P Nicholls 5-11-9	D Burrows (5)	—
303		EDGE AHEAD (Mrs C Edge) T Thomson Jones 7-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	—
304	1114-	FERN LEADER 265P (G,S) (R Ward) Mrs A Swinbank 7-11-4	J Supple	—
305		HYPERION LAD (W Meah) T Bill 5-11-4	J Railton	—
306		IFAFA BEACH (Mrs S Stukeley) J Norton 5-11-4	D J Kavanagh (5)	—
307		IN THE VAN (Mrs S Thomson Jones) Mrs D Haine 5-11-4	J F Titley	—
308	302	MEADOW HYMN 20 (Mrs M Nowell) J Fitzgerald 6-11-4	W Dwan	—
309	2-	MOON DEVIL 405 (C Southgate) M Campion 7-11-4	M Richards	—
310		SILVER GULL (J Ball) H Howe 6-11-4	G Tormey	—
311	3/	SUPER SAFFRON 606 (R Warren) B Smart 7-10-13	C Llewellyn	—
312		CYBER KING (R Woodhouse) R Woodhouse 4-10-6	N Williamson	—
313		GYMCRAK PHARDAH (Gymcrak Racing) G Holmes 4-10-6	A Maguire	—
314		LOST IN THE POST (G Reed) C Thornton 4-10-6	N Horrocks (7)	—
315		PORT VALENSKA (M Hyman) J L Harris 4-10-6	D Gallagher	—
316		RUSH ME NOT (Mrs C Buckland) S Campion 4-10-6	Michael Brennan (5)	—

BETTING: 5-2 Slide On, 5-1 Mrs Em, 8-1 Fern Leader, Lost In The Post, Meadow Hymn, 10-1 Edge Ahead, Moon Devil, 12-1 others.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

SLIDE ON beat MEADOW HYMN (7lb better off) 5l in National Hunt Flat race at Haydock (2m, good to soft). MRS EM beat King Of The Blues 4l in 11-runner National Hunt Flat race at Ludlow (2m, good to soft). FERN LEADER 24l 4th of 13 to Grey Realm in confined race at Hornby Castle (3m, good). MEADOW HYMN 22l 7th of 24 to Mr Lurpak in National Hunt Flat race at Newcastle (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start. MOON DEVIL head 2nd of 18 to Frys No Fool in National Hunt Flat race at Towcester (2m, good to soft). SUPER SAFFRON 12¾l 3rd of 20 to Coole Hall in National Hunt Flat race at Worcester (2m, good)
Selection: SLIDE ON

1.20 BUTTERCUP AMATEURS HANDICAP (Div II: £1,735: 1m 3f) (12 runners)

401	(7)	000300-	STEVE'S WONDER 21J (CD,G,S) (G Mills) B Llewellyn 7-11-7	J L Llewellyn	—
402	(10)	060020-	KINNESCASH 22 (F,S) (D James) P Bowen 4-11-3	R Thornton	90
403	(9)	400541-	RAINDEER QUEST 14 (CD,F,G) J Eyre 5-10-13	Miss Diana Jones	84
404	(6)	400660-	NORTH ARDAR 22 (C,D,F,G) (P Stringer) T Wall 7-10-13	Miss A Anderson (5)	87
405	(11)	/10/06/	KING'S SHILLING 35J (C,F,G) (K Penfold) H Oliver 10-10-12	H J Oliver (5)	—
406	(5)	0000/00-	KILNAMARTYRA GIRL 32J (F,G) (P Cronin) J Parkes 7-10-9	Mrs D Kettlewell	—
407	(3)	6030/0-0	MAGICATION 7 (F,G) (Mrs S Hughes) K Wingrove 7-10-5	A Brown (5)	—
408	(8)	40500-	LEBEDINSKI 21J (Mrs P Sly) Mrs P Sly 4-10-3	Miss L Allan (5)	85
409	(2)	060405-	WARSPITE 11 (G Tobin) P Mooney 7-10-1	F Quinlan (5)	95
410	(1)	/2350/	RIMOUSKI 238J (S) (B Cambidge) B Cambidge 9-9-13	Mrs H Noonan (5)	—
411	(4)	06500-4	UNDAWATERSCUBADIVA 7 (J Coupland) M Bielby 5-9-10	Mrs C Williams	[illegible]
412	(12)	0/05000-	CLASSIC DAISY 14 (B) (Mrs J Nichols) R Spicer 4-9-9	S Rutherford (5)	—

BETTING: 7-4 Raindeer Quest, 5-1 Kinnescash, North Ardar, 8-1 Steve's Wonder, 12-1 King's Shilling, Undawaterscubadiva, Warspite, 16-1 others.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

FORM FOCUS

STEVE'S WONDER best effort 12l 3rd of 8 to Troubadour Song in claimer over course and distance (AW), Jul 96.
KINNESCASH 9l 2nd of 12 to Greenspan in seller at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 4f) on penultimate start. RAINDEER QUEST beat Carol Again 13l in 13-runner handicap over course and distance (AW). LEBEDINSKI 14l 8th of 18 to Lila Pedigo in selling handicap at Ripon (1m 2f, good).
WARSPITE about 3¾l 5th of 14 to Arcatura in seller at Lingfield (AW, 1m 2f). UNDAWATERSCUBADIVA 3¼l 4th of 14 to Sarasi in seller over course and distance (AW).
Selection: RAINDEER QUEST

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Johnston	41	192	21.4	J Weaver	49	252	19.0
J Banks	7	35	20.0	D Harrison	19	108	17.6
W Haigh	20	115	17.4	D Pears	10	67	14.9
J Eyre	27	172	15.7	F Lynch	15	109	13.8
A Bailey	11	75	14.7	V Halliday	7	52	13.5

☐ The British Horseracing Board yesterday announced a second batch of replacement fixtures to compensate for recent abandonments: January 30, Folkestone; 31, Taunton; February 1, Stratford; 6, Kelso; 7, Towcester; 13, Catterick; 14 Newcastle.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

102 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

1.55 DAISY CLAIMING STAKES (£2,294: 2m) (16 runners)

501	(2)	62650-2	RECORD LOVER 9 (CD,G) (A Mann) M Chapman 7-9-7	Iona Wands (7)	72
502	(16)	405356-	SHAKIYR 53 (C,D,G) (L & R Roadlines) R Hollinshead 6-9-7	F Lynch (3)	83
503	(13)	340/4-4	WHITE WILLOW 9 (V,C,G,S) (P Stringer) T Wall 8-9-7	S Sanders	89
504	(14)	25/0G0	TIRMIZI 23J (G) (S Smith) Mrs A Swinbank 6-9-3	J Weaver	—
505	(3)	05/6230-	GUNMAKER 18J (B Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 8-9-1	T Williams	80
506	(1)	600006-	SHUTTLECOCK 31J (C,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 6-9-1	C Teague (3)	81
507	(7)	40/40/0-	TRISTAN'S COMET 215J (B) (D Wilcox) J L Harris 10-9-1	D McKeown	—
508	(8)	24/5230-	DAILY SPORT GIRL 25J (C,G) B Llewellyn 8-9-0	V Slattery	75
509	(12)		CREDIT CALL 184J (R Brazington) R Brazington 9-8-13	J Quinn	—
510	(11)	4/33422-	EL NIDO 38 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs S Camacho) M Camacho 9-8-13	L Charnock	[illegible]
511	(4)	00/000/	JOYRIDER 25J (C,G) (The Joyriders) Miss M Milligan 6-8-11	P Fessey (5)	—
512	(5)		DARING HEN 18J (V) (A Price) R Juckes 7-8-8	A Culhane	—
513	(9)	0-0	FENIAN COURT 7 (B) (Mrs J Bower) Miss J Bower 6-8-8	S D Williams	—
514	(15)	5000/6/	STRIKE-A-POSE 25J (F,G) (Four Star Racing) B Llewellyn 7-8-8	J Bramhill (7)	—
515	(10)	1540/	YOUNG TESS 51J (S) (G Morris) P Bowen 7-8-8	S Drowne	—
516	(7)	525	SAKBAH 31J (S Yaching) J Pickering 8-8-6	N Carlisle	—

BETTING: 5-2 El Nido, 5-1 White Willow, 6-1 Record Lover, 8-1 Shakiyr, 10-1 Gunmaker, Daring Hen, 12-1 Young Tess, 16-1 others.

1996: EULOGY 9-8-8 T Ashley (12-1) K Burke 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

RECORD LOVER 17l 2nd of 9 to Golden Hadeer in handicap over course and distance (AW). SHAKIYR best effort about 2¼l 3rd of 17 to Northern Motto in handicap at Musselburgh (1m 7f, good to soft) on penultimate start. WHITE WILLOW 7l 4th of 11 to Anzio Spirit in handicap at Newcastle (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start. DAILY SPORT GIRL 6¼l 3rd of 8 to Lord Advocate in handicap at Hamilton (1m 5f, good) on penultimate start. EL NIDO ¾l 2nd of 15 to Pharly Dancer in amateurs claimer at Southwell (AW, 1m 6f). SAKBAH 9l 5th of 10 to Handy Lass in claimer at Nottingham (1m 2f, good to firm)
Selection: SHAKIYR

2.25 RYEGRASS HANDICAP (Div II: £1,944: 6f) (10 runners)

601	(3)	034030-	FEATHERSTONE LANE 13 (V,F,G) (D Parker) Miss L Siddall 6-9-10	T Siddall (7)	[illegible]
602	(10)	05000-2	KLIPSPINGER 9 (B,CD,G) (Action Racing) B Rothwell 4-9-2	J Stack	98
603	(5)	000002-	BLUSHING GRENADIER 22 (B,D,G,S) P Condell 5-8-13	D Harrison	93
604	(5)	50030-0	LADY SILK 4 (CD,G,S) (K West) Miss J Craze 6-8-6	J Fanning	93
605	(6)	05100-0	CHEERFUL GROOM 4 (F) (B Cahill) D Shaw 6-8-4	N Kennedy	89
606	(9)	000005-	SIR TASKER 22 (C,D,F,G) (J Coupland) J L Harris 9-8-3	L Charnock	95
607	(7)	00502-3	CRAIGIE BOY 4 (B,D,G,S) (B Rayner) N Bycroft 7-8-3	J Quinn	98
608	(1)	4/0000-0	SHE'S A MADAM 2 (Miss L Hedtwell) L Lloyd-James 6-7-10	P Fessey (5)	—
609	(2)	05000-5	BLUE LUGANA 4 (J Swinburne) N Bycroft 5-7-10	J Bramhill (7)	81
610	(4)	00000-0	INDIAN WOLF 6 (Mrs T Devichand) B Llewellyn 4-7-10	Iona Wands (7)	—

Long handicap: She's A Madam 7-7, Blue Lugana 7-5, Indian Wolf 7-0

BETTING: 5-2 Blushing Grenadier, 4-1 Klipspinger, 9-2 Craigie Boy, 7-1 Lady Silk, 8-1 Featherstone Lane, 9-1 Sir Tasker, 12-1 others

1996: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

FORM FOCUS

FEATHERSTONE LANE best effort about 4l 3rd of 10 to Mizz in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 5f) on penultimate start.
KLIPSPINGER head 2nd of 10 to Ballard Lady in handicap over course and distance (AW). BLUSHING GRENADIER neck 2nd of 12 to Leigh Crofter in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 7f). SIR TASKER about 9¾l 5th of 12 to Mr Frosty in claimer at Wolverhampton (AW, 6f). CRAIGIE BOY best effort 1¼l 2nd of 9 to Kalar in handicap over course and distance (AW) on penultimate start. INDIAN WOLF 17l 9th of 11 to Invocation in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 6f).
Selection: SIR TASKER

2.55 COWSLIP LIMITED STAKES (£3,388: 1m 4f) (7 runners)

1	(2)	313000-	FAR AHEAD 34 (D,F,G,S) (Sunpak Potatoes) J Eyre 5-9-5	O Pears (3)	91
2	(6)	51300-0	PREMIER DANCE 4 (CD,F,G) (J Fox) D Haydn Jones 10-9-1	A Clark	59
3	(3)	40001-2	ALBAHA 4 (CD,BF,G) (UK Packaging) J Banks 4-8-13	J Quinn	[illegible]
4	(5)	226334-	DANCING CAVALIER 108 (C,G) (Three R s) R Hollinshead 4-8-11	D Griffiths (5)	83
5	(1)	00346-	GULLIVER 107 (P Green) N Walker 4-8-11	G Carter	88
6	(4)	050003-	STILL HERE 27 (G) (Miss J Andrews) P Bowen 4-8-11	S Drowne	56
7	(7)	015/505-	CIRCLED 77 (G) (Mrs A Harris) J Harris 4-8-8	S Sanders	—

BETTING: 5-4 Albaha, 3-1 Dancing Cavalier, 7-1 Far Ahead, 8-1 Still Here, 10-1 Gulliver, 14-1 others.

1996: CELESTIAL CHOIR 6-9-1 R Lappin (6-4) J Eyre 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

FAR AHEAD 12l 8th of 12 to Prince Danzig in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 4f) with PREMIER DANCE (1lb better off) 14l 10th. ALBAHA 5l 2nd of 11 to China Castle in handicap here (AW, 1m 3f) with PREMIER DANCE (1lb better off) 69l 11th. Previously beat Royal Legend 17l in 7-runner maiden over course and distance (AW). DANCING CAVALIER neck and 4l 3rd of 11 to Sweetness Herself in conditions race at Leicester (1m 4f good) on penultimate start. GULLIVER 42½l 6th of 8 to Ginger Fox in maiden at Chester (1m 5f 89yd, good). Selection: ALBAHA (nap)

3.25 BLUEBELL SELLING STAKES (£2,085: 7f) (16 runners)

1	(3)	220500-	AWAFEH 146 (V) (S Mellor) S Mellor 4-8-12	M Wigham	74
2	(6)	36122-2	ELTON LEDGER 9 (V,CD,F,G) (Posse) Mrs N Macauley 8-8-12	S Sanders	[illegible]
3	(12)	00025-6	FIRST GOLD 7 (V,CD,F,G,S) (K Standen) J Wharton 8-8-12	J Quinn	74
4	(7)	134000-	GUY'S GAMBLE 49 (CD,G) (Parkers Plc) J Wharton 4-8-12	J Fanning	70
5	(14)	201551/	MAJOR MOUSE 568 (C,D,F,G) (N Barbers) W Haigh 9-8-12	V Halliday	—
6	(5)	20020-3	SEA DEVIL 9 (C,D,F,G,S) (A Geacher) M Camacho 11-8-12	L Charnock	89
7	(1)	85663-0	SENSE OF PRIORITY 4 (C,D,F,G) (M Scaife) D Nicholls 6-8-12	Alex Greaves	91
8	(4)	06040-	SOAKED 186 (M Hill) D Chapman 4-8-12	A Culhane	85
9	(2)	00200/	VISIMOTION 461J (D,F) (Mrs H Chambers) Miss M Rowland 7-8-12	N Carlisle	—
10	(16)	052300-	CARMOSA 2 (A Bloodstock Ltd) D Nicholls 4-8-7	J Bramhill (7)	76
11	(11)	0000-40	HAVANA MISS 2 (S) (Mrs L Hedlund) B Palling 5-8-7	T Sprake	72
12	(13)	420605-	JAREER DO 10 (A Roberts) B Palling 5-8-7	T Sprake	70
13	(10)	55426-0	JILLY BEVELED 9 (P D Express) R Thompson 5-8-7	P Fessey (5)	73
14	(9)	000/00-6	KAJOSTAR 9 (R Fereday) S Campion 7-8-7	D McKeown	60
15	(15)	00060-0	MAYSIMP 9 (Mrs J Chrimes) B Baugh 4-8-7	R Perham	60
16	(6)	015400-	MISS CHARLIE 2 (D,F) (A Bennett) A Bailey 7-8-7	G Carter	79

BETTING: 7-2 Elton Ledger, 13-2 Sea Devil, 7-1 Sense Of Priority, 15-2 Major Mouse, 10-1 First Gold, 12-1 Jareer Do, 14-1 others.

1996: FIRST GOLD 7-8-12 S D Williams (10-1) J Wharton 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

AWAFEH 12l 8th of 11 to Move With Edes in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 7f). ELTON LEDGER 1l 2nd of 11 to Anonym in claimer over course and distance (AW) with SEA DEVIL (10lb worse off) ½l 3rd and HAVANA MISS (6lb worse off) 4l 4th. GUY'S GAMBLE 19l 10th of 16 to Shonlaine in handicap over course and distance (AW). MAJOR MOUSE beat Welley Lad neck in 8-runner handicap here (AW, 1m), Jun 1995.
Selection: ELTON LEDGER

3.55 PRIMROSE HANDICAP (£3,289: 1m) (12 runners)

1	(12)	402600-	NORDIC BREEZE 65J (F) (M Jones) M Pipe 5-9-13	D Harrison	92
2	(4)	004005-	SO AMAZING 13 (CD,G) (Mrs P Walcton) J Eyre 5-9-12	T Williams	95
3	(6)	010000-	PERPETUAL LIGHT 25J (CD,G) (Four Point Partners) J Quinn 4-9-9	G Parkin (5)	93
4	(5)	223662-	OBELOS 13 (V,F) (Gilbert Animal Feed) Miss S Wilton 6-9-8	D McKeown	98
5	(9)	00213-1	DOMINO FLYER 7 (CD,G,S) (S Smith) Mrs A Swinbank 4-9-8 (6ex)	J Quinn	[illegible]
6	(2)	00/0000-	ONEOFTHEOLDONES 31J (CD,G) (R Bailey) J Norton 5-9-7	O Pears (3)	88
7	(6)	400064-	THREE ARCH BRIDGE 14 (B,C,D,F,G) (R Pennell) M Johnston 5-9-6	J Weaver	96
8	(11)	06200-0	DAWALIB 6 (CD,F,G) (J Brown) D Haydn Jones 7-9-1	L Charnock	96
9	(3)	00034-4	GULF SHAADI 6 (D,G) (Bobby Halliday Partners) E Alston 5-8-13	S Sanders	96
10	(7)	325000-	AFRICAN-PARD 22 (J Fox) D Haydn Jones 5-8-13	A Clark	98
11	(1)	040404-	PRINCIPAL BOY 14 (C,G) (C Moreno) T Etherington 4-8-4	C Rutter	97
12	(10)	00000-0	SPANISH STRIPPER 7 (F) (T Satchell) M Chapman 6-7-10	G Bardwell	—

Long handicap: Spanish Stripper 7-7

BETTING: 5-2 Domino Flyer, 4-1 Three Arch Bridge, 6-1 Obelos, 7-1 Principal Boy, 8-1 Nordic Breeze, Gulf Shaadi, 12-1 others.

1996: MAPLE BAY 7-9-4 P Roberts (3-1) A Bailey 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

OBELOS 3l 2nd of 12 to Greenspan in claimer at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 1f 79yd). DOMINO FLYER beat Desert Invader 3l in 15-runner amateurs handicap over course and distance (AW). THREE ARCH BRIDGE 3¼l 4th of 11 to Cats Bottom in handicap over course and distance (AW). PRINCIPAL BOY 7l and short-head 4th of 11 to Slievenamon in handicap over course and distance (AW).
Selection: OBELOS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.30 (7f) 1, Hawaii Storm (M Baird, 11-2); 2, Statistician (8-1); 3, Mystery Matthias (11-2). Shontaine 11-4 fav. 12 ran. Hd, 1¾l. D ffrench Davis. Tote: £4.80; £1.70, £3.60, £3.70. DF: £19.70. Trio: £42.00. CSF: £49.64.

1.00 (5f) 1, Krystal Max (Victoria Appleby, 100-30); 2, Madrina (11-2); 3, Lift Boy (4-1). Palacegate Jack 13-8 fav. 8 ran. 1¾l, 2l. T Barron. Tote: £4.80; £1.30, £7.00, £1.10. DF: £20.90. CSF: £20.47.

1.30 (7f) 1, Milos (J Weaver, 4-5 fav); 2, Ki Chi Saga (8-1); 3, The Frisky Farmer (9-2). 12 ran. 2l, 1¾l. T Naughton. Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £2.80, £4.30. DF: £6.20. Trio: £11.60. CSF: £9.10.

2.00 (1m) 1, Royal Ally (M Wigham, 5-2); 2, Jolly Jackson (12-1); 3, Enlisted (5-6 fav). 7 ran. 10l, ½l. P Kelleway. Tote: £3.00; £1.10, £5.20. DF: £22.60. CSF: £28.04.

2.30 (1m 2f) 1, Tribal Peace (G Gallagher, 25-1); 2, Can Can Charlie (25-1); 3, Sultor (4-1 fav). 14 ran. Nk, sh hd. B Gubby. Tote: £23.30; £10.80, £14.30, £1.10. DF: £226.80. CSF: £468.53. Tricast: £2,758.76.

3.00 (6f) 1, Just Loui (D Sweeney, 5-2); 2, Forgotten Times (10-1); 3, Pathe Danseuse (6-1). The Wyandotte Inn 9-4 fav. 6 ran. 1¾l, 1¾l. W G M Turner. Tote: £4.10; £1.00, £6.00. DF: £13.30. CSF: £22.19.

3.30 (1m 5f) 1, Yet Again (S Sanders, 8-15 fav, Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Rasayel (12-1); 3, Sassiver (20-1). 11 ran. ¾l, 1l. Miss G Kelleway. Tote: £1.50; £1.00, £4.10, £5.80. DF: £8.40. Trio: £40.20. CSF: £8.54. Tricast: £67.78.

Jackpot: £13,077.30 (0.09 winning tickets. Pool of £16,761.15 carried forward to Southwell today).

Placepot: £177.80. Quadpot: £65.10.

RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULT
MUSSELB'GH 101 201
SOUTHWELL 102 202
IRISH 120 220
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: DOMINO FLYER
(3.55 Southwell)
Next best: Klipspinger
(2.25 Southwell)

MUSSELBURGH

THUNDERER

12.40 Falcon's Flame. 1.10 Nutty Solera. 1.45 *Doubling Dice.* 2.15 *Monyman.* 2.45 *Supertop.* 3.15 Puritan. 3.45 ALWARQA (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
7.30AM INSPECTION

12.40 DYEWATER MAIDEN HURDLE (Div I: £1,929: 2m) (11 runners)

1		DESERT LORE 2F R McKellar 6-11-7	A Dobbin	—
2	3330	GAZANALI 22 G Moore 6-11-7	N Bentley	86
3	0/0-	KINGS HIGH 580 W Kemp 7-11-7	S McDougall	—
4	3-01	LIVELY ENCOUNTER 34 (S) Mrs M Jones 6-11-7	Derek Byrne	—
5	2	SHINEROLLA 39 C Parker 5-11-7	D Parker	90
6	30-6	WELBURN BOY 107 R Woodhouse 5-11-7	A S Smith	—
7		BEST OF ALL 34F J Berry 5-11-2	M Moloney	—
8	06	JALMAID 32 H Alexander 5-11-2	R McGrath (5)	—
9	.000/	OUR WILMA 841 Mrs D Thomson 8-11-2	T Reed	—
10	F0	BRIDLINGTON BAY 48 B Ellison 4-10-9	G Cahill	—
11	2	FALCON'S FLAME 86 Mrs J Ramsden 4-10-9	A P McCoy	[illegible]

7-4 Falcon's Flame, 9-4 Shinerolla, 5-1 Lively Encounter, 8-1 Gazanali, 10-1 Jalmaid, 14-1 Best Of All, 16-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Musselburgh: 1.10 About Midnight. Southwell: 12.05 Balinsky, Ballykissangel. 1.55 Daring Hen, Tristan's Comet. 3.25 First Gold

1.10 DYEWATER MAIDEN HURDLE (Div II: £1,910: 2m) (10)

1	6P/0	MAPLE BAY 23 B Ellison 8-11-7	G Cahill	—
2	6	MUSIC PLEASE 36 A Bailey 5-11-7	C O'Dwyer	83
3	1432	NUTTY SOLERA 14 (G) C Parker 7-11-7	B Storey	—
4	644-	UNPREJUDICE 346 M Hammond 6-11-7	R Garritty	90
5	R-60	ABOUT MIDNIGHT 30 (B) F Murtagh 8-11-2	A Dobbin	—
6	22P-	DECENT PENNY 332 Mrs S Acher 5-11-2	A Thornton	—
7	4-3P	HUTCEL LOCH 22 R Woodhouse 5-11-2	A S Smith	—
8	R0	JED ABBEY 76 P Shiels 5-11-2	D Bentley	—
9	04	LUMBACK LADY 58 B Mactaggart 7-11-2	G Lee (3)	[illegible]
10	0	MOST RESPECTFUL 86 Denys Smith 4-10-9	P Niven	—

2-1 Unprejudice, 7-2 Lumback Lady, 6-1 Music Please, 7-1 Nutty Solera, 8-1 Hutcel Loch, 10-1 Decent Penny, 14-1 others

1.45 LINKS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,406: 2m) (12)

1	4541	TRIENNIUM 24 (CD,F) P Monteith 8-11-10	A Dobbin	92
2	42-0	BUD'S BET 188F (D,F) Miss J Craze 9-11-2	R Johnson	93
3	4054	SIMAND 23 (D,G) G Moore 5-10-13	J Callaghan	91
4	/5D-	BLUE DOMAIN 7F R Craggs 6-10-10	N Smith	81
5	0-34	TIOTAO 28 C Parker 7-10-9	D Parker	90
6	5-46	DOUBLING DICE 31 R Allan 6-10-9	S Melrose (7)	98
7	-0P4	TROY'S DREAM 24 M Hammond 6-10-6	R Garritty	81
8	4PU0	SEE YOU ALWAYS 44 (B,D,F) M Barnes 7-10-1	S Taylor (5)	89
9	4500	RATTLE 23 J J O'Neill 4-10-0	R McGrath (5)	95
10	PP-5	SCHOOL OF SCIENCE 24 D Nolan 7-10-0	S McDougall	—
11	6P4F	MISS MONT 24 F Murtagh 8-10-0	G Cahill	[illegible]
12	3503	CATTON LADY 24 R Craggs 7-10-0	B Grattan (7)	84

11-4 Triennium, 5-1 Troy's Dream, 7-1 Simand, 8-1 Catton Lady, Tiotao, 10-1 Bud's Bet, Rattle 12-1 Doubling Dice, Miss Mont, 14-1 See You Always, 16-1 Blue Domain, 25-1 School Of Science.

2.15 HOPESWATER NOVICES CHASE (£3,098: 2m) (6)

1	5121	MONYMAN 23 (D,F,G) M Hammond 7-12-2	R Garritty	[illegible]
2	-510	DEVILRY 56 (D,G,S) R Craggs 7-11-10	N Smith	91
3	P61P	ELLIOTT'S WISH 21 (B,D,G) J Johnson 6-11-10	R Johnson	79
4	P56P	ALICHARGER 39 (V) P Monteith 7-11-4	A Dobbin	—
5	P-0U	GONE ASHORE 29 M Barnes 6-11-4	S Taylor (5)	—
6	1232	HERBERT LODGE 28 (BF,F,G) K Bailey 8-11-4	C O'Dwyer	—

Evens Monyman, 2-1 Herbert Lodge, 6-1 Devilry, 8-1 Elliott's Wish, 25-1 Alicharger, 33-1 Gone Ashore

2.45 MUSSELBURGH 10TH ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,693: 3m) (9)

1	2263	TALLYWAGGER 24 (D,BF,F,G) G Moore 10-12-0	T Hogg (7)	[illegible]
2	2151	SUPERTOP 24 (CD,F,G) L Lungo 9-11-12	R Garritty	97
3	-P66	DOMINIE 21 (B,D,G,S) K Bailey 9-11-0	C O'Dwyer	95
4	-111	SNOW BOARD 34 (D,F,S) Mrs M Jones 9-10-6	Derek Byrne	93
5	0422	D'ARBLAY STREET 14 (G,S) W Kemp 8-10-1	S McDougall	85
6	PP03	BOSTON MAN 21 R Woodhouse 6-10-0	B Storey	96
7	/64-	HOBKIRK 315 A Whillans 8-10-0	K Johnson	88
8	4-33	HIGHLAND PARK 56 (F) R Craggs 11-10-0	A Dobbin	85
9	P500	RUBER 30 (F,G,S) R Thomson 10-10-0	D Parker	69

2-1 Snow Board, 11-4 Supertop, 4-1 Tallywagger, 5-1 D'Arblay Street, 8-1 Highland Park, 10-1 Boston Man, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 3 winners from 6 runners, 50.0%; J Berry, 3 from 7, 42.9%; M Hammond, 24 from 88, 27.3%; C Parker, 7 from 32, 21.9%; L Lungo, 5 from 24, 20.8%; Mrs M Reveley, 7 from 34, 20.6%.

JOCKEYS: R Garritty, 8 winners from 32 rides, 25.0%; P Niven, 11 from 53, 20.8%; D Parker, 7 from 35, 20.0%; J Callaghan, 6 from 33, 18.2%; D Bentley, 4 from 28, 14.3%; T Reed, 9 from 73, 12.3%

3.15 MUSSELBURGH 10TH ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,536: 2m 4f) (7)

1	5532	PURITAN 24 (B,CD,F,G,S) N Tinkler 8-12-0	R Garritty	97
2	5-41	MONTRAVE 24 (CD,F,G) P Monteith 8-11-4	A Dobbin	97
3	3513	WAYUPHILL 14 (D,BF,G,S) C Parker 10-10-11	B Storey	[illegible]
4	U-52	RAPID MOVER 24 (B,C,F,G) D Nolan 10-10-10	M Moloney	93
5	6323	REBEL KING 23 (F,G) M Barnes 7-10-9	S Taylor (5)	94
6	4335	GRAND SCENERY 32 (CD,F,G) J Johnson 9-10-8	A P McCoy	98
7	3U23	VAL DE RAMA 48 (F,G) Denys Smith 8-10-8	P Niven	98

9-4 Montrave, 11-4 Puritan, 4-1 Wayuphill, 6-1 Rapid Mover, 8-1 Rebel King, 10-1 Grand Scenery, Val De Rama

3.45 WHITEWATER NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,637: 2m 4f) (15)

1	5010	STYLISH INTERVAL 25 (F) N Waggott 5-11-10	A P McCoy	90
2	6421	FLYAWAY BLUES 37 (G) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-9	P Niven	93
3	4-F3	DONT FORGET CURTIS 34 G Moore 5-11-4	J Callaghan	90
4	5P31	COURT JOKER 31 (G) H Alexander 5-11-3	B Storey	96
5	30-6	CANAAN VALLEY 14 D Robertson 9-11-3	F Perratt	96
6	6-61	FRYUP SATELLITE 23 (G) Mrs J Brown 6-11-2	E Callaghan (3)	95
7	530P	DIFFICULT DECISION 31 Mrs M Jones 6-11-0	Derek Byrne	91
8	/05-	KALISKO 282 (G) R Allan 7-10-11	S Melrose (7)	90
9	0455	MR CHRISTIE 31 Miss L Siddall 5-10-11	A Thornton	98
10	-213	KINGS MINSTRAL 32 (D,BF,G) D Lamb 7-10-7	J Burke	97
11	1P0P	ANCHORENA 22 (D,F) D Barker 5-10-7	R Johnson	94
12	502	WHAT JIM WANTS 9F J J O'Neill 4-10-7	R McGrath (5)	98
13	024	ALWARQA 37 M Hammond 4-10-2	D Bentley	95
14	56-5	MILLIES IMAGE 59 F Murtagh 6-10-0	A Dobbin	94
15	PP-4	MORE CHAMPAGNE 39 Mrs D Thomson 7-10-0	G Cahill	[illegible]

4-1 Alwarqa, 5-1 Flyaway Blues, 6-1 Dont Forget Curtis, Fryup Satellite, 7-1 Court Joker, 8-1 Kings Minstral, 10-1 Mr Christie, Stylish Interval, 12-1 Canaan Valley, Difficult Decision, More Champagne, 14-1 others.

Embattled England coach stands by his gung-ho approach despite media ridicule

Time running out for Lloyd to revive England

MICHAEL HENDERSON

meets a motivator taking heavy flak

A man walks into a pet shop and, spotting a handsome red-chested parrot, asks its price. "Ten quid," the shop owner says. As he reaches for his wallet, the customer sees another bird, with a fine beak and blue feathers. "That one's twenty," the owner says.

"How much is that one there?" the customer asks, pointing out a bald parrot with faded colours. "One hundred." "How on earth do you work that out?" he says. "Well, to you and me, he looks a bit of a mess. But all the other birds call him 'boss'."

David Lloyd has heard funnier jokes in his time and, as a notable after-dinner speaker, he has told a good few. The boot is on the other foot now. England's cricketers, who began their tour of New Zealand this week, have been battered by the ferocious winds of media scorn and it is his job as coach to help to win back the public's trust. Even for one of life's optimists it is a mighty task.

Ask if he still enjoys the job after enduring the abuse heaped upon himself in Zimbabwe and he answers: "Love it". But he is no fool. "I understand that we have a long way to go, and there will be some casualties along the way," he said. He knows, too, that if England play as wretchedly as they did before Christmas, he will be one of the first.

His phrase, "we murdered them", muttered in the aftermath of the drawn Test in Bulawayo, when England finished level on runs, has already become part of English sporting folklore. He does not repine, and sees no reason to retract a syllable. If anything he has become more emphatic, and will carry on banging the drum for his players.

"I'm a Manchester United fan and if we win 1-0 with a goal in the last minute then we've murdered them. Where I come from nobody bats an eyelid if you say that. I could easily have said 'we were in a position of some strength' but I'm not like that. I know the English have a history of the stiff upper lip, but it's not for me. Part of my job is to get a team that plays with passion and fervour for the country, not to do a job of work. Now, what people make of that doesn't worry me at all. My bosses had a quiet word with me in Harare, which turns out to be 'a threat of the sack'. I read one report that said I had to be restrained in the Zimbabwe dressing-room, which was libellous. I wasn't even there."

Like everybody else connected with the England camp he thinks the players cop too much of a bagging from the written media. "You could fill up newspapers with stories of what editors get up to," he said. "The disappointing thing is that former England players jump on the bandwagon when they know exactly what the problems are with English cricket, and what has to be done. I say, 'keep your mouth shut and get on the golf course'.

"We are a great nation for ridiculing ourselves, and I know what some of the reporters have to write. Some write well, and some write crap. I have no problem with most of them as people but please don't ask me to spend Christmas with them at a panto. I had no say in the decision not to attend that do [the press revue]. It was the players.

"I want us to scrap, and fight, and turn games round. I had a little spat with a bloke after the Test in Bulawayo, but it was nothing more than a spat. Now I understand that I can't do that. I have not caused offence to him but I understand that I have to apologise. We shook hands afterwards, and he gave me a tie. All right, I will have to be more careful, but I'm not going to change too much."

A large part of his job, he says, is to "educate" the players. England have played some decent cricket in recent years but, when a Test match lies in the balance, awaiting its defining moment, it is rarely an England player that claims the initiative. "We must start to eradicate the bad day, like the first day at Headingley last summer, and then the bad session," he said. "But to be competitive at Test level, and to give our cricketers every chance to succeed, we have to restrict our domestic cricket. Our players do not play more Tests than many others but, with the county commitments between Tests and one-day internationals, they are worked harder and longer than other players.

"Whenever I saw Wasim Akram [the Pakistan captain] before a Test match last summer, I would ask him 'where have you been?' and he would say 'I've not been playing cricket'. He was resting, and so was Waqar Younis. Our three leading pace bowlers missed parts of last season because they had injuries. This is one result of asking them to bowl like men when they are really just boys."

Younger men will get international chances earlier in future for, as Lloyd says, "form in county cricket is incidental. We took Owais Shah to Zimbabwe last winter with the under-19 team when he was 17, and he made 139 in seven hours in that heat and altitude, which suggests he has some pedigree.

"He played only four or five championship matches for Middlesex and when we rang up his parents to check his availability for this winter they thought we meant he would be going on another under-19 tour. Alex Tudor, the young bowler at Surrey, wasn't fit but if he had been the least he could have expected was a chance with the A team. Chris Silverwood has made his Test debut after one full season of county cricket."

Lloyd met Lord MacLaurin, the new chairman of the English Cricket Board, in Zimbabwe and found him "all right", which is a compliment in Accrington. "I found him blinkered, by which I mean that he knows what he wants. He will support us but he wants something to show for that support in our performance."

So his new year hopes are "giving a more consistent level of performance, showing pride in playing for England, and starting to win Test matches — and one-day internationals. It has been rammed home to us in the last month how important that is."

NIGEL MARPLE

Lloyd, with back to camera, finds the England players an attentive audience as he outlines the way ahead after net practice in Auckland

ROSS SETFORD

Russell and Lloyd check batting technique on playback

BOWLS

Price and Bell take Australian pairs title

By David Rhys Jones

JOHN BELL, of Cumbria, produced the perfect answer to the English indoor bowls selectors, who left him out of the international trial last Sunday, when he and Mary Price, of the Desborough club, in Maidenhead, won the Merrylands International mixed pairs title in Sydney yesterday.

Bell, a jovial man off the green but a fierce competitor on it, stopped short of thumbing his nose at the English officials he recently criticised so harshly but, aware that he had made his point, he was bubbling with enthusiasm for the event, the format, and the rinks at the Merrylands club — one of only three indoor clubs in Australia.

"It's the best indoor green I've ever played on," he said. "Ours in Carlisle is excellent, but this is even better, with all eight rinks running identically. It's even more remarkable, because the Australians do not have much experience at laying indoor greens."

Price is recovering from operations on her knees but the women's national outdoor singles champion stood up well to her task, as the English pair qualified in second place in the ten-team round robin, then moved up a gear in the semi-finals yesterday.

Beating Dorothy Roche and Sam Laguzza, of New South Wales, 18-9, they took on Edda Bonutto, of Queensland, and Mark McMahon, of Hong Kong, in the final, and struck a telling blow when they claimed a six on the tenth end. Leading 16-15 after 14, they still needed a score on the last end, but a double saw them home.

☐ Amy Gowshall, 17, of Grimsby, who has skipped for England juniors for three seasons on grass, will lead a rink in the first ever under-25 indoor international between England and Wales at Malvern tomorrow week.

RUGBY UNION: ILLNESS DEPRIVES JENKINS OF FULL BACK ROLE FOR WALES

Thomas comes in from cold

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

NEIL JENKINS, the Pontypridd stand-off half due to play full back for Wales against United States tomorrow, has been forced to withdraw. Jenkins has been suffering from influenza and his place will be taken by Justin Thomas. Jonathan Davies joins the replacements.

Thomas has won eight caps but has taken time to adjust after moving from Llanelli to Cardiff, conceding the national position first to Wayne Proctor and, after his injury, to Jenkins, who is Wales' leading points-scorer. The Eagles, meanwhile, introduce one newcomer for their first meeting with Wales since 1987. Brian Hightower will play on the left wing.

Gareth Adams, the hooker who toured Australia with England A in 1995 after playing for Bath in the Pilkington Cup final that year, has been advised to retire. A neck injury has been deemed sufficiently serious that, were he to continue playing rugby, he could risk permanent disability.

Adams, 26, a chemistry student at Bath University, began this season as his club's first-choice hooker and last played against Dax in the Heineken Cup in October. But he has been told that further wear and tear to his neck, damage to which forced him to take a year out from the sport, could increase the risk.

He started his career as a flanker and captained England Under-21 from that position but, aware that he was built on the small side, moved to hooker in the hope of advancing his career. "Even before I changed position I knew I had a weakness to one side of my body but I wouldn't have done all I have done in rugby if I had not switched to hooking," he said.

Bath, weather permitting, will play Harlequins at the Stoop Memorial Ground in the Courage Clubs Championship tomorrow, a match in which the London club are unable to field Gary Connolly. The Wigan centre, who is due to return to rugby league after this weekend, has a knee injury, so Robbie Paul will partner Will Carling and Jim Staples makes a welcome return at full back after recovering from a broken jaw sustained at Bath a month ago.

However, Leicester's hopes of giving Joel Stransky, their South African signing at stand-off half, a league debut at Northampton have been put on ice; the weather has given Stransky no opportunity either to play a second-XV game or to train effectively with his new colleagues and he may now have to wait until next month, though he will be among the replacements for the game tomorrow.

A back injury to Rob Liley has cleared up and he retains the position, and will do so in the build-up towards the Heineken Cup final, against Brive, on January 25, for which Stransky is ineligible. However, an ankle injury to Leon Lloyd gives Rory Underwood a further opportunity to press his claims for a place in the cup final.

Wasps, due to play Bristol, will be without Damian Hopley for the rest of the season. The powerful centre, capped three times by England, has required a second operation on the knee he damaged playing sevens in Hong Kong last March: he may be able to start training once more in March, but cannot play until next season, which will also prevent him helping in the defence of England's World Cup sevens title in two months' time.

UNITED STATES: M Williams (Gentlemen of Aspen); V Anitoni (Yankees), R Tardits (Life College), M Scharrenberg (Reading), B Hightower (Gentlemen of Aspen); M Alexander (Denver Barbarians), A Bachelet (Reading); R Lehner (Blackheath), T Billups (Blackheath), B LeClerc (Gentlemen of Aspen), D Lyle (Bath, captain), C Vogl (Bridgend), A Parker (Gentlemen of Aspen), R Lumkong (Pontypridd), J Wilkerson (Belmond Shore)

☐ Nine years after he last played for Scotland in the five nations' championship, Alan Tait yesterday began his rugby union rehabilitation when he was selected yesterday for the A team to play Wales at Goldenacre a week today (Mark Souster writes). Tait, 32, returned from rugby league with Leeds this summer to join the growing Scottish contingent at Newcastle.

SCOTLAND A: D Lee (Watsonians); J Craig (West of Scotland), A Tait (Newcastle), P Rouse (Dundee HSFP), C Glasgow (Heriot's), D Hodge (Watsonians), A Nicol (Bath); G Graham (Newcastle), S Brotherstone (Melrose), P Wright (Melrose), E Peters (Bath), S Campbell (Melrose), S Grimes (Watsonians), S Holmes (London Scottish), C Hogg (Melrose, captain) Replacements: S Lang (Heriot's), S Welsh (Hawick), D Patterson (Heriot's), C Mather (Watsonians), J Manson (Stirling County), G Bulloch (West of Scotland)

Hopley, of Wasps, will miss the rest of the season

Elite of eight clubs may provide way forward

Gerald Davies finds no lack of talented players in the valleys but that changes may be needed

Observing the rugby scene in Wales this season is to conclude that there is no shortage of talent. It may well be, as the matches against English teams have proved, that individual clubs may lack the strength in depth, but this is not to say there is insufficient talent to sustain a full list of clubs in Wales's first division.

With the success of the European competition, there is more reason than ever to strengthen the domestic competition. Unlike many English clubs who have the option to employ expensive imports, the Welsh clubs have to rely on home-grown talent. There may have to be a change in strategic thinking to provide the opportunities to bring out the best in players.

In future the number of clubs may not add up to the present 12. But there is capacity for eight, which in fact is the way it used to be. Long before the league system existed, in the days of unofficial championships and merit tables, this figure represented the approximate number of strong clubs who provided the stiff contests within Wales. It is now a matter of consolidating where those traditional strengths lay.

Bearing in mind that the spread of clubs does not stretch much beyond the 80-mile coastal plain from Newport to Llanelli, this figure is hardly likely to change. It is to be regretted that, during the past six years, no new strong clubs have emerged north of this line.

Nonetheless, there is still a rich vein of talent. The difficulty is to channel young players correctly. Too often, too many players are wasted or do not realise their full potential. The clubs wish to have their full quota of good players within their squad. Since the first-division clubs do not have a second team, it means that a large section of the squad, the second-choice players, do not play enough games. This is especially true of younger players.

There is an increasing trend for a club coach to go on scouting missions to schools. This may be prudent policy to ensure a club's development and continuity, but joining a large squad may deny the young player the valuable playing experience he needs at a critical time. Every player requires his period of apprenticeship.

So where does this lead? To the necessity in the end to retain eight strong clubs in Wales. To reduce it further would limit where young talent could play top-class rugby.

There is no need for rugby to be represented, as some have argued, by provinces or districts. Rather, it is the clubs who should adopt a provincial responsibility, in playing and administration terms, so that, for instance, Llanelli will become the centre of excellence for the west and towards which all noteworthy players in the area will aspire. Swansea would become the focus for its population and the valleys that feed it.

Putting their differences and histories aside, Neath and Aberavon might amalgamate, as indeed might Maesteg and Bridgend. Cardiff and Pontypridd have large enough populations from which to draw enough players to satisfy both clubs. Indeed, year in year out, despite their close proximity they are competing annually for the top honours. This reaffirms that there is independent life in both of them.

Finally, to the black hole that exists in that area once known as Gwent. Within it there are six clubs that were once thought to be of leading status. This is no longer true. Nor are they likely to recover their status in the future. There are three clubs in the first division but none is doing particularly well. Might not these clubs pool their resources to form two influential clubs, one of which would be Newport with the other one representing the valleys.

Other clubs in these eight areas would form a network of "feeder" clubs, channelling their best players to the recognised centre of excellence. This system would function in a similar way to that which exists in New Zealand and South Africa, but would only differ administratively to that which once existed in Wales.

DANCING

Star Ball marks rapid rise for couple

By Ruth Gledhill

TIMOTHY HOWSON and Joanne Bolton, former leading British amateur ballroom dancers, continued their rapid rise through the professional ranks in the early hours of yesterday morning with their showing in the final of the Star Ball, the first international championship of the year.

After a three-round contest across the four dances of waltz, tango, foxtrot and quickstep, Howson and Bolton, from High Wycombe, were placed fourth, their best result in a top-flight championship.

Some judges, however, placed them as high as second in some dances, a sign of their rapid progress and that they could soon be challenging more experienced couples.

The winners were Luca Baricchi and Loraine Barry, the England No 2 couple, who, along with Marcus and Karen Hilton, will represent their country at the world championships in November. The Hiltons, who did not dance at the Star, have never been beaten by Baricchi and Barry. Seven times the world champions, they are favourites to win when they meet at the open UK championships in Bournemouth later this month.

Howson's result cannot be taken as a guide to his world ranking because of the number of top dancers who withdrew because of injury and influenza. Their performance is an indication that England has up-and-coming dancers who could enable Britain to remain dominant, although couples from countries such as Italy are becoming more difficult to beat.

In the Latin section, won by a couple from Finland, England had two couples in the final, the highest placed being Paul Richardson and Lorna Dawson in third.

هكذا من الأصل

Warning signals that flash danger round the globe

The spate of rescues in the Southern Ocean should force a debate on how to make round-the-world races safer, **Marcus Hutchinson** suggests

The spirit of the Vendée Globe single-handed non-stop round-the-world yacht race is very much one of autonomy and self-sufficiency. Compared with other round-the-world races, there are no million-dollar budgets, few real restrictions and, for the winner, no prize-money, just prestige.

Sailing is a mechanised sport. Designers, engineers and builders spend months and months agonising over the shape and structure of these advanced craft. Speed and safety are the two principal criteria. But, as with all industrial design exercises, there is a certain amount of compromise involved and, inevitably, cost, too.

However, the ultimate responsibility for everything falls on the skipper. He alone must determine whether his boat is safe, whether he has enough food and water on board and whether he should head this way or that. He could choose a heavy boat built of steel that would take a year to sail the course. Or he could opt for a light boat made of composites that would do it in only one hundred days.

The skipper, although carrying lots of safety equipment — such as liferafts, emergency beacons and survival suits — is never under any illusions that, in an emergency, a rescue is guaranteed.

Ultimately this event will be self-policing. Competitors in future races are always going to have the images of this Vendée Globe race in the back of their minds when they motivate themselves to find the money to compete. The risks are clear and the consequences of making the wrong decisions have been demonstrated.

In spite of this, there will be rule additions when this race is over, such as requiring the skippers to sail a more northerly course through the Southern Ocean and further design regulations governing structural strength and stability. The Vendée fleet is not the only one that should take note, however. The lessons apply to all ocean races.

So what exactly went wrong in the Southern Ocean? Why have three competitors been the subject of daring rescues over the past fortnight, at a cost of millions of dollars? Has single-handed sailing become too dangerous?

Some of these boats are old and ill-equipped. Some are sailed into weather conditions that neither they nor their skippers are in a state to cope with. Some are just plain unlucky, meeting the kind of statistical conditions that would cause a North Sea oil platform to collapse.

In Tony Bullimore's case a rescue was necessary because the keel fell off *Exide Challenger* — a structural failure. For Thierry Dubois, his *Pour Amnesty International* was unable to recover from a capsize even with its keel intact.

The unforgettable sight of Dubois perched on his upturned boat was a graphic reminder of the excessive beam (width) and lack of freeboard (the height from the waterline to the deck level) that is typical of the Open 60s. This makes them more likely to stay upside down than to right themselves. Raphael Dinelli's sinking, meanwhile, reinforces the potential danger of a simple dismasting, when a broken spar can pierce the hull.

Structural failure, as in Bullimore's case, is the result of compromises or errors which can happen in design, construction or operation. Ultimate stability, or the lack of it, as with Dubois, is easy to calculate and the skipper should have known about his boat's properties and have made the decision to race with that knowledge. A broken mast destroying a boat (Dinelli) can only be bad luck.

The bad weather, bad luck and questionable decisions of the past two weeks must be noted and analysed. We are fortunate that, thanks to technology, the skill of the Australians and the tenacity of the heroes in this saga, we have a massive amount of first-hand experience to act on. We have an opportunity to make this and other races safer in the future, so that this kind of sailing may continue to attract the world's most ambitious competitors.

☐ *The author is a yacht designer, writer and a former editor of* Seahorse.

Bullimore saved, page 1
Sports Letters, page 42

BOXING

Akinwande prepares to fight for recognition

By Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent

HENRY AKINWANDE is the only world-class British heavyweight with an unbeaten record, yet few in Britain recognise him as a serious contender for the undisputed world title. That could change when Akinwande, the holder, defends his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) title against Scott Welch, the undefeated British champion, in Nashville, Tennessee, tomorrow.

Experts have long ignored Akinwande's achievements. He beat Axel Schulz, of Germany, for the European title in 1993, and even though two years later the significance of that victory was underlined when Schulz beat George Foreman — but lost the verdict on a contentious decision — few gave Akinwande his due.

Even when he won the WBO title last June by knocking out Jeremy Williams, of the United States, in three rounds in California, he was considered no more than a second division champion.

Everyone acknowledges that Akinwande is hard to beat but few see him as true world champion material. After he defended his WBO title against Alexander Zolkin recently in Las Vegas he said: "I showed people here I'm not just an ordinary British heavyweight. I showed people I can box, and box well. I kind of find it funny that people know that here but cannot see it in Britain."

The lack of acceptance in Britain could have something to do with Akinwande's retiring nature, which does not lend itself to hype, and the fact that the supporters have not forgotten his bout with Johnny Nelson, which is regarded as the most boring ten rounds ever seen in a British ring. Critics even believed that he could not fill a small London hall without the support of local boxers.

But this bout could awaken the attention of the British public because Welch, of Brighton, like Akinwande a former ABA champion, is aggressive and tough enough to cause an upset even though he is not highly rated in world terms. Welch has already brought a degree of needle to the contest, accusing Akinwande, who lives in Florida, of turning his back on Britain.

Don Turner, Akinwande's trainer, who was in Evander Holyfield's corner for his bout with Mike Tyson, believes Britain will finally have to recognise Akinwande when he becomes undisputed world champion, beating Tyson and Lennox Lewis on the way.

Turner, who has had Akinwande in his care for seven months, said yesterday: "Henry is one of the best fighters I have ever trained. He is just a step behind Evander. I have no doubt that when Evander retires Henry will become the top heavyweight.

"When he came to me, I knew from his height [6ft 7in] he had the strength to do anything that it took to become a great fighter. His left jab is really strong, just like Larry Holmes's and Joe Louis's. I just told him to be more aggressive and not hold too much. I guess I just woke him up to what he's capable of.

"You saw what Evander did to Tyson, pushed him about like a rag doll, it'll be the same when Tyson meets Henry. He is right up there with the top three heavyweights. It won't be long before he rounds up all four titles."

It was not surprising to hear Turner talking so highly about Akinwande. The champion who also held the Commonwealth title, has had a distinguished career.

Akinwande, who was born in Dulwich in 1965 and was taken back to Lagos by his parents when he was seven, returned to Britain at the age of 18 to become a boxer. He was inspired by the Dutch boxer, Arnold Vanderlejide, in the Los Angeles Olympics. He worked as a road sweeper in the Trafalgar Square area and for long months lived on bread and water. He joined the Lynn Boxing Club and won the ABA title twice, beating Herbie Hide for the second title.

Akinwande represented Britain in the Seoul Olympics but, strangely, was beaten by Vanderlejide. He turned professional in 1989 with Mickey Duff and remained unbeaten for 29 contests, joining King in 1995.

ATHLETICS: POWERFUL BRITISH ENTRY ANNOUNCED FOR MARATHON

Evans high on list for birthday honours in London

By David Powell
Athletics correspondent

PAUL EVANS wants the whole of London to share his 36th birthday celebrations. For his party piece, he is planning to win the Flora London Marathon on April 13.

Evans became only the third Briton to break 2hr 09min when he won the Chicago Marathon in October and it has made a new athlete of him. He intends to prove it in London, where he races Richard Nerurkar, Britain's most reliable championship marathon runner, over the distance for the first time.

The strongest British entry for a decade was announced yesterday, one that presents a good possibility of a British double, last achieved by Hugh Jones and Joyce Smith in 1982. No British man has won in London since Eamonn Martin four years ago but, even without knowing yet who the overseas opposition will be, Evans and Nerurkar will be among the favourites.

Liz McColgan will defend the title she won last April, but will not carry British hopes alone. Marian Sutton will seek to build on her breakthrough last year when, like Evans, she left Chicago as a big-city marathon winner. Martin, Peter Whitehead and Gary Staines underpin the British men's challenge.

Evans was third in London last year, his highest finish in four attempts. Ahead of him were Dionicio Ceron, the Mexican who completed a hat-trick of wins, and Vincent Rousseau, from Belgium. Six months later, though, Evans drew away at 18 miles in Chicago, finishing in 2hr 08min 52sec. He had no race plan, but the way he held form when running solo has worked wonders for his self-belief. "I am going into London this year with a different attitude," Evans said. "I have never sat down and thought: 'How am I going to win London?'

"I have always been happy to be in the lead pack, just behind people, because I have been too in awe of runners like Ceron and Rousseau. Now my attitude is: 'Respect them but do not respect them too much'." He wants David Bedford, the elite race director, to bring in a pacemaker suited to his requirements.

"I want a pacemaker there for me," Evans said. "Dave has never asked me before. I have always been content to hang in there and see what happens. This year I want the race set up so I can run fast. I will be looking to run a personal best and win."

If Evans goes out fast, he and Nerurkar may see little of each other. Nerurkar's cautious policy has helped him to build a sound, if unspectacular, competition record. Fourth in the 1994 European championships, seventh in the 1995 world championships, fifth in the Atlanta Olympics, he has not won a marathon since 1993.

"He will play it safe," Evans said. Perhaps not, this time. Sooner or later Nerurkar must go for a fast time and, in a rare appearance outside the tactical noose of a championship, it could be now. Nerurkar's personal best, 2:10.03, does not reflect his ability and, though his priority will be to win, he could collect a sub-2:09 if he stays close to Evans.

Evans, who would enjoy a payday of more than $200,000 (about £117,000) if he achieved his targets, will work two days this year: he is to defend his Chicago title rather than go to the world championships in Athens.

Such has been the recent improvement in British women's cross country that McColgan is thinking of running the British trial to make the world championship team because, she feels, a squad including herself, Paula Radcliffe, Lucy Elliott and Hayley Haining might win the world team title in Turin in March.

McColgan insisted, however, that the London Marathon was her priority. She could make as much as Evans, if all goes well. For a former shoemaker (Evans) and jute mill worker (McColgan), athletics has been a smart career move.

PETER TREVNOR

McColgan, left, and Staines go through their paces in London yesterday

SPORT IN BRIEF

Higgins makes promising start

ALEX HIGGINS, desperate for an extended run in the Embassy world snooker championship in order to avoid being forced to compete in professional snooker's newly-instituted qualifying school next season, made a positive start at Blackpool yesterday (Phil Yates writes). Higgins, winner of the game's blue riband event in 1972 and 1982, established a 6-3 lead over Darren Limburg, of London, in their best-of-19 frames, fifth preliminary round match. In terms of break-building, it was a low-quality session.

Higgins, who appeared at Stockport magistrates court on Tuesday, charged with a breach of the peace, managed only one contribution of any significance, 47, in the seventh frame. He was left requiring only four of the remaining ten frames to secure a place in the next round against either Stephen O'Connor or David Craggs tomorrow.

Wilson takes gold

SWIMMING: Ian Wilson shrugged off a bout of influenza to gain Britain's first victory of the new World Cup season in Peking yesterday. Several members of the England squad competing in the second leg of the World Cup series have been suffering from a virus, but Wilson, 26, still battled his way to the gold medal in the men's 800 metres freestyle.

The City of Leeds swimmer, who won the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle yesterday, powered home in 7min 55.04sec to win by more than nine seconds from Jure Bucar, of Slovenia. Adam Ruckwood, of the City of Birmingham, another flu victim, was fourth in the men's 200 metres backstroke in 1:58.07.

Windows secures double

RACKETS: Matthew Windows, the Gloucestershire cricketer, won the singles and doubles titles in the Under-24 Open championship at Queen's Club. Windows overcame the 1992 winner, Harry Foster, in their semi-final before taking four sets to dispose of Alex Smith-Bingham in the final. Windows then teamed up with Smith-Bingham to win the doubles title in an exciting, hard-hitting final over five sets. Richard Carter, winner of the public schools singles in 1993 and 1994, matched Windows's achievement by taking the Under-21 Open championship singles and doubles titles.

Shinozuka blazes trail

MOTOR RALLYING: Kenjiro Shinozuka, of Japan, won the sixth stage of the Dakar rally, from Gao to Menaka, yesterday, completing the 332-kilometre run in 3hr 14min 35sec in his Mitsubishi to edge out Jean-Pierre Fontenay, of France. Fontenay crossed the line 1min 43sec off the pace. In the motorcycling category, the Frenchman, Stephane Peterhansel, came in ahead of the field on his Yamaha, recording a time of 3hr 29min 53sec, two minutes ahead of his compatriot, Thierry Magnaldi, on a KTM. In the overall car standings, Shinozuka leads Fontenay by 2½ minutes.

Australia in sights

SHOOTING: The Great Britain rifle squad leaves for its latest Australian tour tonight to defend the Australia Trophy, the Commonwealth team rifle championship that Britain has held since 1987. The Australians changed the title from Empire Match to Australia Match to coincide with their bicentenary in 1988, but Britain continued to win — by 43 points at Bisley last year. The event this year is at Pontville range, Tasmania, which has some of the fiercest and most unpredictable winds in the world.

Baker-Finch unhappy

GOLF: Ian Baker-Finch, the former Open champion, had a miserable return to the sport yesterday when he returned a five-over-par 77 in the first round of the Victorian Open, in Australia. Baker-Finch, who took six months away from tournament golf after a succession of poor results in recent years, was 13 shots behind Stephen Leaney, the leader and defending champion. Leaney fired a course record of eight-under-par 64 to lead by two strokes from Paul Devenport, of New Zealand.

FOR THE RECORD

BALLROOM DANCING

LONDON: The Star Ball: Modern championship: 1, L Baricchi and L Barry (Eng); 2, A Sinkinson and A Preston (Eng); 3, F Salmi and S Fancello (It); 4, T Howson and J Bolton (Eng); 5, H and K Amano (Japan); 6, J Werner and M Colagreco (Den). Latin championship: 1, J Haapalainen and S Sutari (Fin); 2, P Green and K Rufus (Aus); 3, P Richardson and L Dawson (Eng); 4, P Sidell and A Disher (US); 5, V Nikovsky and L Davidova (Russ); 6, I Waite and I Haas (Eng)

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 107 San Antonio 93; Cleveland 78 Houston 81; Philadelphia 93 Dallas 111; Washington 115 Phoenix 113; Denver 99 Seattle 109; Milwaukee 119 Utah 112; Portland 81 Miami 85; Golden State 95 Vancouver 109; LA Lakers 101 Charlotte 97.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Crystal Palace 75 Sheffield 81.

BIATHLON

RUHPOLDING, Germany: World Cup: Men (20km): 1, R Gross (Ger) 52min 6.7sec (0 pen min); 2, O E Bjorndalen (Nor) 52:46.3 (1); 3, V Mazhgurov (Russ) 53:40.3 (1); 4, S Fischer (Ger) 54:12.4 (1); 5, M Kirchner (Ger) 54:17.6 (1); 6, P Sendel (Ger) 54:28.0 (0). World Cup positions: 1, Fischer 195pts; 2, Mazhgurov 179; 3, Bjorndalen 159; 4, P Muslimov (Russ) 156; 5, Gross 128; 6, Kirchner 125.

BOWLS

SYDNEY: Merrylands international mixed pairs championship: Semi-finals: M Price and J Bell (Eng) bt D Roche and S Laguzza (New South Wales) 18-9; E Bonutto (Queensland) and M McMahon (New South Wales) bt M Paddell and S Anderson (Queensland) 15-13. Final: Price and Bell bt Bonutto and McMahon 18-15

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (first day of four): Sydney: Western Australia 180-8 (G B Hogg 59; B E McNamara 4-47); New South Wales 126 (J Angel 4-20). Melbourne: Tasmania 260-6 (D C Boon 75, S Young 50) v Victoria.

TOUR MATCH: Calcutta (one day): Indian select XI 231-4; Lancashire 235-8 (N H Fairbrother 82).

DARTS

FRIMLEY GREEN: Embassy world championship (England unless stated): Second round: R Scholten (Holl) bt R George 3-0; L Wallace (Scot) bt R Barneveld (Holl) 3-2.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

COCA-COLA CUP: Quarter-finals: Bolton Wanderers 0 Wimbledon 2; Middlesbrough 2 Liverpool 1.

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Southern section: Swansea 1 Wycombe 1 (aet; Swansea win 6-5 on pens).

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic 6 Kilmarnock 0. First division: Falkirk 1 St Mirren 1; Stirling Albion 4 Greenock Morton 3.

PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier division: Manchester United 3 Sheffield Wednesday 0. First division: Huddersfield 2 Blackpool 0. Third division: Scarborough 1 Rochdale 2.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Charlton 1 Bristol Rovers 2.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: John O'Hara League Cup: Third round replay: Selsey 2 Arundel 1.

FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Torquay 0 Luton 2.

SPANISH CUP: Third round, first leg: Granada 0 Real Betis 1; Villarreal 0 Athletic Bilbao 1; Osasuna 3 Rayo Vallecano 2; Oviedo 1 Compostela 0; Zaragoza 1 Racing Santander 1; Español 4 Sporting Gijón 1; Sevilla 2 Deportivo La Coruña 0; Celta Vigo 2 Logrones 0.

GOLF

MELBOURNE: Victoria Open: Leading first-round scores (Aus unless stated): 64: S Leaney. 66: P Devenport (NZ). 67: R Whitlock, S Tait. 68: B Lamb, G Ogilvy, T Price. 69: J van de Velde (Fr), L Wastle, S Collins, G Coles, R Lee (NZ), M Long (NZ), E Walters. 70: D Gaunt, S Alker (NZ), A Getson, D Barnes, P Lonard, P Moloney. Other scores: 71: G Evans (GB). 72: B Jackson (GB), S Cage (GB) 76: M Carver (GB) 77: I Baker-Finch.

HOCKEY

DUNDEE: Four-nations men's indoor tournament: Scotland 4 Australia 8; South Africa 4 North America 1.

KUALA LUMPUR: Four-nation tournament: Malaysia 9 Belgium 5; South Korea 5 Switzerland 0.

FREESTYLE SKIING

MONT-TREMBLANT, Quebec: World Cup: Aerials: Men: 1, C Rijavec (Austria) 238.09pts; 2, L Langlois (Can) 234.82; 3, S Foucras (Fr) 215.76; 4, J Sweet (Aus) 214.93; 5, A Capicik (Can) 214.87; 6, A Valenta (Cz) 209.91. Leading World Cup positions: 1, Foucras 292pts; equal 2, N Fontaine (Can) and E Bergoust (US) 240; 4, Capicik 228; 5, Langlois 228; 6, M Ferrario (US) 216. Women: 1, V Brenner (Can) 173.22; 2, M Rohrbach (Switz) 165.52; 3, C Olivier (Can) 163.25; 4, J Cooper (Aus) 160.86; 5, K Marshall (Aus) 160.07; 6, N Stone (US) 157.71. Leading World Cup positions: 1, Brenner 300; 2, Cooper 260; 3, Rohrbach 248; 4, Olivier 244; 5, K Kuster (Switz) 236; 6, H S Lid 224.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League

First division

Stoke v Birmingham (7.45)

Tranmere v Swindon (7.45)

LEAGUE OF WALES: Inter Cable-Tel v Briton Ferry; Newtown v Llansantffraid.

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round: St Patrick's Ath v Athlone (7.45); Shelbourne v Everton (Cork) AFC (7.45); Waterford v Monaghan (7.45).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Newcastle v Manchester (7.30); London v Leicester (8.0).

DARTS: Embassy world championship (at Frimley Green).

TABLE TENNIS: English Open (at Kettering).

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New Jersey 1 Colorado 1 (OT); NY Rangers 3 Tampa Bay 4; Chicago 4 Edmonton 1, Dallas 6 Detroit 3; Anaheim 3 Florida 2.

MOTOR RALLYING

DAKAR-AGADES-DAKAR RALLY: Fifth stage (Timbuktu to Gao): Cars: 1, J-P Fontenay (Fr, Mitsubishi) 3hr 42min 40sec; 2, K Shinozuka (Japan, Mitsubishi) at 49sec; 3, B Saby (Fr, Mitsubishi) 1.41; 4, J-L Schlesser (Fr, Buggy) 2.59; 5, J Kleinschmidt (Ger, Buggy) 15.50; 6, H Masuoka (Japan, Mitsubishi) 16.45. Overall positions: 1, Saby 29hr 58min 12sec; 2, Shinozuka at 9sec; 3, Fontenay 56; 4, Schlesser 15min 21sec; 5, Masuoka 1.06.04; 6, S Servia (Sp, Nissan) 2.20.54. Motorcycles: 1, T Magnaldi (Fr, KTM) 4hr 10min 8sec; 2, G Jimmink (Holl, KTM) at 10min 47sec; 3, S Peterhansel (Fr, Yamaha) 11.58; 4, O Gallardo (Sp, Cagiva) 13.19; 5, D Castera (Fr, Yamaha) 17.55; 6, J Arcarons (Sp, KTM) 18.01. Overall positions: 1, Peterhansel 24hr 49min 58sec; 2, Arcarons at 1.10.30; 3, Gallardo 1.58.45; 4, Jimmink 2.00.59; 5, Lewis 2.07.56; 6, Castera 2.09.03

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Under-24 Open championship: Singles: Semi-finals: A Smith-Bingham bt R Walker 15-9, 15-9, 15-12; M Windows bt H Foster 15-7, 17-14, 15-12. Final: Windows bt Smith-Bingham 15-9, 11-15, 15-6, 16-12. Doubles: Semi-finals: Windows and Smith-Bingham bt G Rees and B Newman 15-5, 15-7, 15-8; Foster and W Sawrey-Cookson bt R Carter and Walker 15-11, 15-9, 15-6. Final: Windows and Smith-Bingham bt Foster and Sawrey-Cookson 18-13, 10-15, 15-12, 15-8, 17-14. Under-21 Open championship: Singles: Semi-finals: E Behn bt C Charlton 15-10, 15-6, 15-9; Carter bt D Cruickshank 18-13, 15-1, 15-11. Final: Carter bt Behn 18-13, 15-12, 15-5, 8-15, 15-12. Doubles: Semi-finals: Carter and Cruickshank bt D Titchener-Barrett and D Kinder 15-2, 15-3, 15-6; Behn and Charlton bt D Stahl and T Morris 15-9, 15-0, 15-4. Final: Carter and Cruickshank bt Behn and Charlton 15-10, 17-14, 11-15, 15-12

TABLE TENNIS

KETTERING: English Open: Men's singles: Round-robin qualifying: A Eden (Eng) bt T Janssens (Bel) 21-18, 21-13, 21-9; E Massart (Bel) bt T Young (Eng) 21-18, 14-21, 20-22, 21-19, 22-20; K Jindrak (Austria) bt A Perry (Eng) 22-20, 21-15, 21-19; D Blake (Eng) bt O Cimen (Tur) 21-18, 12-21, 21-15, 21-12; Y Morimoto (Jap) bt J Taylor (Eng) 21-18, 22-20, 18-21, 17-21, 21-18; Eden bt C Robertson (Scot) 21-6, 21-13, 21-12; L Holscher (Ger) bt B Billington (Eng) 21-23, 21-19, 14-21, 21-18, 21-10; Blake bt J Kahn (Holl) 22-20, 21-19, 20-22, 21-15

TENNIS

SYDNEY: International tournament: Men: Quarter-finals: G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt S Stolle (Aus) 6-4, 6-2; C Moya (Sp) bt P Rafter (Aus) 7-6, 6-3; T Henman (GB) bt A C Brien (US) 1-6, 7-6, 6-4; A Costa (Sp) bt B Black (Zim) 6-4, 6-2. Women: Quarter-finals: J Capriati (US) bt A Frazier (US) 6-4, 6-1; M Hingis (Switz) bt Y Basuki (Indo) 7-6, 6-1; M J Fernandez (US) bt I Majoli (Cro) 7-5, 6-4; L Davenport (US) bt N Sawamatsu (Japan) 6-3, 6-7, 6-1

MELBOURNE: Men's exhibition tournament: Semi-finals: M Chang (US) bt B Becker (Ger) 2-6, 6-4, 7-6. Losers' play-offs: M Stich (Ger) bt J Courier (US) 6-4, 6-3; A Medvedev (Ukr) bt S Draper (Aus) 6-4, 6-3

AUCKLAND: Men's tournament: Second round: J Bjorkman (Swe) bt C Ruud (Nor) 6-0, 7-5; M Rios (Chile) bt J Tarango (US) 6-2, 6-4; J-M Gambill (US) bt C Woodruff (US) 5-7, 6-2, 7-6; M Ondruska (SA) bt K Kucera (Slovenia) 2-6, 6-2, 6-3

HOBART: Women's tournament: Quarter-finals: M Werdel-Witmeyer (US) bt Shi-Ting Wang (Taiwan) 6-4, 6-2; M Endo (Japan) bt A Ellwood (Aus) 3-6, 6-4, 6-2; D van Roost (Bel) bt L Cenkova (Cz) 6-0, 1-0 ret; E Callens (Bel) bt A-G Sidot (Fr) 6-3, 3-6, 6-0

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	60	180	good	varied	good	snow	2	9/1
(Fantastic piste conditions: masses of snow)								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	10	48	fair	varied	icy	fine	-1	4/1
(Pistes holding up thanks to good grooming)								
St Anton	45	180	good	varied	icy	sun	0	4/1
(Sunshine continues: still mostly good)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	105	260	good	varied	good	cloud	-4	8/1
(Excellent snow on well prepared pistes)								
Flaine	80	225	good	good	good	cloud	-2	9/1
(5cm new snow softening pistes: good skiing)								
Megeve	60	160	good	varied	good	cloud	3	9/1
(Good skiing but some exposed runs icy in places)								
Méribel	65	135	good	moguls	good	fair	-4	8/1
(Pistes still good but odd rock showing)								
La Plagne	100	200	good	varied	good	cloud	-3	8/1
(Excellent skiing on fresh snow)								
La Tania	95	135	good	varied	good	fair	2	5/1
(Good skiing throughout Tois Vallees)								
Tignes	105	200	good	varied	good	cloud	-1	8/1
(Pistes good but some icy spots on lowest runs)								
Val Thorens	160	240	good	crusty	good	cloud	-2	5/1
(Pistes hard-packed but good and free of rocks/stones)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	150	440	good	powder	good	cloud	-4	8/1
(Superb skiing conditions, powder everywhere)								
Cortina	85	130	good	powder	good	snow	1	9/1
(Excellent skiing everywhere: snowing again)								
Livigno	105	200	good	moguls	fair	cloud	-3	7/1
(Great skiing on most slopes: poor visibility)								
SWITZERLAND								
Mürren	65	170	good	powder	good	snow	-2	9/1
(10cms new snow and excellent skiing)								
Verbier	50	200	good	good	good	snow	-4	9/1
(Excellent skiing but poor visibility)								
Zermatt	60	280	good	varied	fair	cloud	0	8/1
(Dusting of fresh snow: pistes very quiet)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper, art - artificial.

IRISH RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

PROVINCIAL DIRECTORS OF COACHING (4)

The four branches of the Irish Rugby Football Union (Ulster, Munster, Leinster, Connacht) are each seeking to appoint a person as Director of Coaching. The persons appointed will be based in the relevant Province and will be contracted to the I.R.F.U.

The Directors prime responsibility will be:

The performance of the Senior Provincial Team.

On completion of the Provincial season, the Directors will assume a secondary role within the development of the game - the Management of the Provincial Elite Programme and to contribute to the National Elite Programme.

The appointees will have a proven track record within top flight rugby and experience in progressive skill development.

A three year contract will be offered initially, with a remuneration package that reflects the significance of the position.

Application forms, job description and person specification are available from:

Philip Browne,
Secretary,
Irish Rugby Football Union,
62 Lansdowne Road,
Dublin 4.

Tel: 01 - 6684601; Fax: 01 - 6605640.

Completed application forms should be returned to the above not later than 7th February 1997.

THE IRISH RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER.

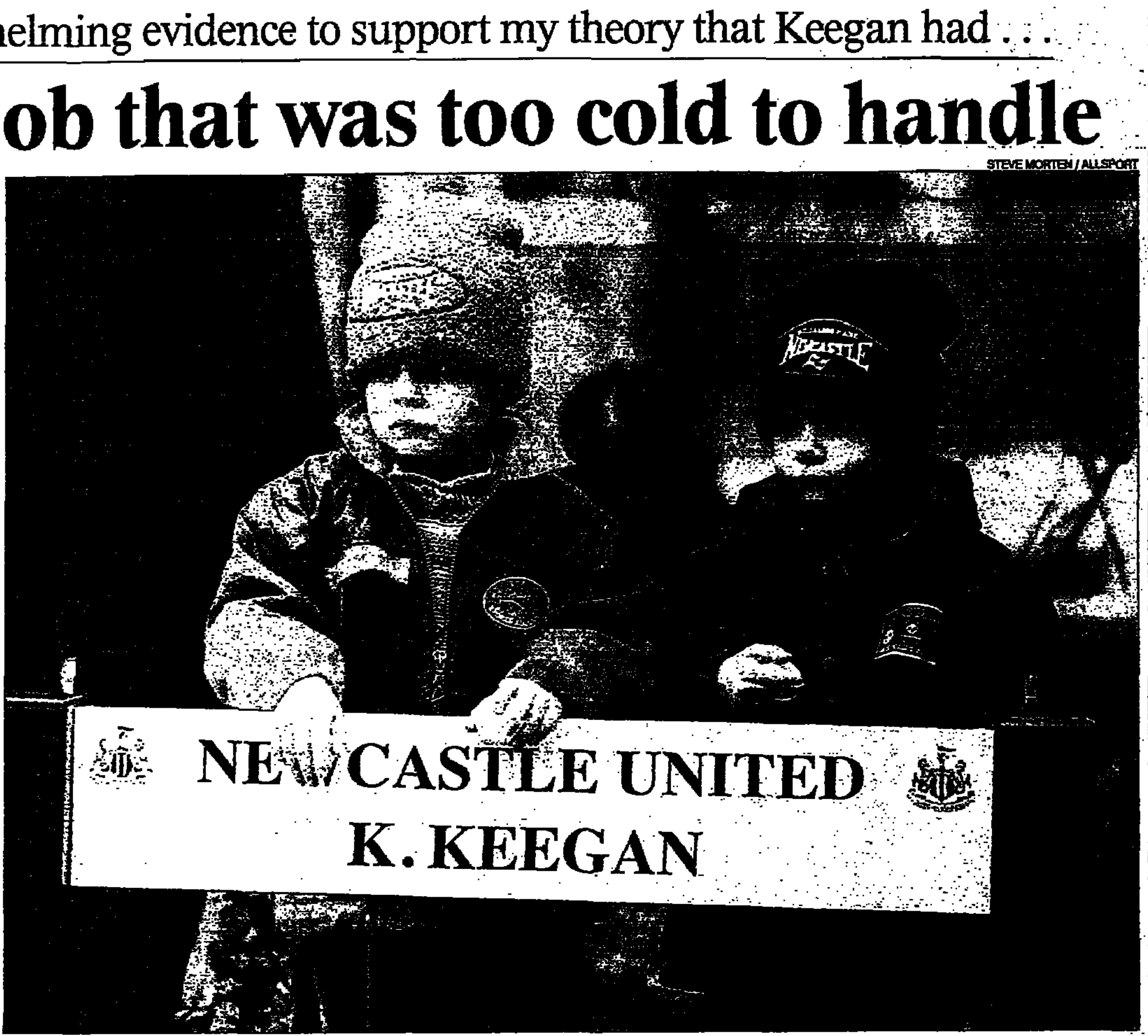
Overwhelming evidence to support my theory that Keegan had . . .

The job that was too cold to handle

LYNNE TRUSS

Kicking and Screaming

STEVE MORTEN / ALLSPORT



Two of Keegan's younger disciples worship the spot on which their Messiah parked his car and wait in vain for him to reappear

JOHN GILES

Disbelieving supporters try to come to terms with the abdication of King Kevin

Everyone has their theories, of course, and after considering all the evidence, this is mine. Kevin Keegan was just fed up with being cold. Look at any pictures of the poor man and what do you see? Anorak zipped up to his nose. Bobble hat round his ears, pinched nose poking out between. The man was clearly perishing.

So, what happened? At new year, he noticed that his toes had started coming off with his socks, indicating that even perpetual gum-chewing was no longer an activity adequate to maintain circulation. So he made his heroic decision, as others have done before. "I'm just popping out," he said. "I may be some time."

When Newcastle United fans finally learn the true story, they will be very, very sorry. If St James' Park had only offered its hero a little pitch-side gazebo with a brazier, all this sorry flotation mess might have been avoided.

I went to Newcastle on Wednesday, to mug grief-stricken fans for a story. There were plenty of them to choose *from and, by a stroke of good* fortune, they all wear black anyway. Few of them were worried (as I was) by the split infinitive in the morning's official press release.

Their minds seemed entirely bent on Messianic blasphemy. "He died for us," was the common theme of woe; in *The Journal*, the Newcastle daily paper, came the headline "He never forgot ordinary people". At this rate, "Eat this and think of me", may well be the next Sugar Puffs campaign, so watch out.

I know where I was when my patience snapped about all this. Yes, Keegan holds a unique place in the hearts of a unique city with a unique passion for footy. But a lunatic Geordie promptly had his arm tattooed with a tombstone and "R. I. P. Kevin Keegan 92-97" on it, and I just thought, choking on my Kevin Keegan Memorial Breakfast, well — enough's enough.

For one thing, now that everyone is in this bizarre mock mourning for the man (after all, he is not dead, he is only not in Newcastle), I cannot make jokes any more about Keegan and Terry McDermott looking like the Scousers in *Harry Enfield and Chums*.

As a newcomer to football, I have only just started to appreciate the role of the manager — which is perhaps lost sight of sometimes. But principally, of course, the manager's role is to suffer. Alex Ferguson does this scapegoat impersonation perfectly, with the red-eyed and highly-alarmed look of someone who has inadvertently glanced into the pit of hell.

If Holman Hunt were alive today, that hairy billy-goat with the worried expression would not get a look-in. No wonder football managers work so hard at maintaining their haircuts; it is obviously a statement that they still have control over *something*.

Back in Newcastle, a light snow fell on Wednesday night, and the vigil outside St James' Park had disbanded. The statue to Jackie Milburn, covered with its grim tarpaulin, still towered over the steps, but little Carl and Jason Hewitt, the bobble-hatted Toon toddlers, who had posed so pathetically at Keegan's car-parking space that morning (their dad pledging "to tell them all about him as they got older"), were thankfully tucked up at home under black-and-white quilts.

And suddenly, I don't know why, I cheered up. My taxi driver, the fourth of the day, told me as a fact that Kenny Dalglish would be taking over; and as another fact, said Darren Peacock had told *him*. Gosh, how swanky. Perhaps life was worth living, after all. Remembering the Bible story, moreover, I felt great consolation come upon me: Kevin would rise again in three days, and besides, he had left on earth all these lovely Newcastle disciples (I mean, players) still living.

"Have you ever met David Ginola?" I asked, trying to sound as offhand as possible, and not too disrespectful of the gloom. "You wouldn't happen to know where he lives? I mean, in the interests of my research, you know, I'm not fixated or anything, it's just that, being a hotshot football reporter and all that . . ."

Five minutes later, we drove slowly past the house (which could have been anybody's, but there was a tell-tale Renault in the drive) and I was so excited I tipped my friend five quid. To be honest, it was the most exciting thing that had happened all day.

It is true what they say about Newcastle. It is a small place and it is football mad. Ask anybody if they have met the players, or seen them in bars, and they are dead proud to say yes. They might be making it up, of course. But nobody could remember seeing Keegan in the town; they just felt his presence. And his influence spread wide, clearly. According to reports, sales of Sugar Puffs went up 20 per cent during 1996.

I could not help noticing that the "ordinary people" story concerned a charity trip to Lapland with local disabled children — a lovely thought, save in one troubling respect. *Lapland*. You see? If my Captain Oates hypothesis is correct, *this sounds* suspiciously like the final straw.

"Kevin, we've arranged a lovely holiday for you," they said. "Oh great, where?" "Lapland."

Believe me, somewhere in Marbella, a ceremonial bonfire is already burning. And on top of it, a famous black anorak may soon be aflame.

Hall to take back seat at St James'

By David Maddock

THE saying that today's newspaper is tomorrow's chip wrapper must seem especially pertinent to Kevin Keegan at the moment. Only 24 hours after he resigned as manager of Newcastle United, events quickly overtook even such a dramatic departure.

The search for a successor occupied most thoughts in the North East yesterday. So too, though, did an announcement that Sir John Hall will relinquish control of the club in the build-up to a public share flotation.

Sir John, speaking to the local newspaper, indicated that he will step down as chairman to allow his son, Douglas, to take charge of day-to-day matters, and assume control. The multimillionaire, however, will remain at the club as a patriarchial figurehead.

He will also keep in contact with the board of directors over the appointment of a successor to Keegan, even though the task of finding the right man has been offered to Douglas Hall. Yesterday, Sir John also moved quickly to quash the inevitable rumours surrounding Keegan's departure.

Speaking for the first time about the loss of his manager, Hall denied that there was any friction. "I had a tremendous rapport with Keegan," he said. "We got on tremendously well, and there is no question of us falling out.

"I am proud to have been part of the Kevin Keegan era at St James' Park, and proud to have been part of what he achieved. The important thing now, is that the dream lives on. He has taken the club from obscurity and put it on a sound footing, now we must build on that."

Sir John indicated that the roots of Keegan's departure lie in the manager's own passionate desire for success. Inevitably, that led to an intense pressure which finally Keegan could endure no longer.

Such sentiments were echoed in an interview Keegan gave just before his decision to turn his back on Newcastle. "Some people think I have the best job in the world, but others wouldn't touch it with a bargepole," he said. "There are days when I think it is the best job around, but days when I think not. The mood swings are unbelievable.

"Everyone has a boiling point. There are highs and lows, the responsibility, the glory — and the stick, they are all part of it. Some supporters think it's fantastic what we have achieved, but others can't get over the fact that we didn't win the league.

"They absolutely *slaughter* me. They write to say I know nothing about football, I am picking wrong players, I am playing the wrong way, I have bought wrong players. They say I don't know anything — I just can't win."

Keegan's departure has left the Newcastle squad in a state of near stunned silence. At the training ground yesterday, they trooped by one by one, all dejected, and most not wishing to comment on their manager's departure.

Only Les Ferdinand broke the silence when spoke for his team-mates. "We are gutted," he said. "He was a great manager and his departure will be a terrific blow."

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

HINNY

(c) The offspring of a she-ass by a stallion. From the Latin *hinnus* in the same sense, Greek *hinnos*, *ginnos*. "He loads a little swift-pacing ass or hinny mule with his wares."

PALINOIA

(b) The compulsive repetition of an act, over and over again, until it is performed perfectly. The classic form of this condition is the dogged piano practice of the ten-year-old next door, who is rehearsing the Blue Danube or the notorious Minute Waltz for the end-of-term concert. The technical term for this is pianola palinoia, and the condition imposed upon the auditor is pianola palinoia paranoia.

UROPYGIUM

(a) The fleshy and bony protuberance at the posterior end of a bird's body — the part of a bird to which its tail feathers (the hardest to pluck) are attached. The word could be used (loosely) as a grandiloquism at the Christmas dinner table for the pope's nose. More loosely still, it might be used in church as a crypto-grandiloquism for the pope's nose.

GOSSOON

(a) A lad. The affected English pronunciation of the French *garçon*. The word gives a sense of silliness, because of the subconscious association with other words ending with *-oon*, such as *goon* and *loon*. It is therefore suitable for use by an adult nasty enough to wish to address a young male person — particularly a waiter — in a patronising way.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxd7! Rxd7 2 Nf6+ gxf6 3 Qg4+ Bg7 4 Bxf6 and wins.

Liverpool beaten as Robson twists knife

By Our Sports Staff

MIDDLESBROUGH made matters worse for Newcastle United supporters on Wednesday night as Bryan Robson's team moved to within 270 minutes of bringing a rare piece of silverware back to the North East. They followed up their Coca-Cola Cup win over their rivals by knocking out Liverpool, the favourites and FA Carling Premiership leaders, 2-1 at the Riverside Stadium. The semi-final draw pitted them against either Stockport County or Southampton over two legs.

"This was a massive game for us to keep our season going and instil some confidence in the boys at the club," Robson said, after goals from Craig Hignett and Steve Vickers proved too much for Liverpool, despite Steve McManaman's second-half consolation. "My players worked very hard to get their just reward."

A virtuoso performance from Oyvind Leonhardsen helped Wimbledon to book their semi-final place. The Norwegian's display was the catalyst for a 2-0 win over Bolton Wanderers at Burnden Park. Wimbledon will play Leicester City or Ipswich Town. Leonhardsen provided the killer blow to Bolton's prospects after 22 minutes with a sweetly-struck, curling shot. Efan Ekoku had scored an early goal for Wimbledon.

COCA-COLA CUP: Semi-finals: Stockport County or Southampton v Middlesbrough; Ipswich Town or Leicester City v Wimbledon. First legs to be played on February 18 and 19; second legs to be played on March 11 and 12.

How do you feel about your phone bill?

First Telecom offers national and international calls at up to 60% less than other networks.

One call from your existing touch tone phone links you to the world's largest and most dependable fibre optic network. There are no connection or line rental charges - you don't even have to change your current phone number.

Fantastic savings, friendly service and crystal clear connections. It's enough to put a smile on your face.

FIRST TELECOM

THE FUTURE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

0800 376 6666

OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24 HOURS

First Telecom plc is a Licensed Carrier. All charges are based on standard rates and are inclusive of V.A.T.

RADIO CHOICE

Time for tea, Boston-style?

United States of Anger. *Radio 4, 9.45am.*

In his final report on the health of the US, Gavin Esler gets hotter under the collar than at any time during the past six weeks. You can almost hear him clench his fists. Instead of sitting on the fence, he leaps over it and pursues his prey with axe swinging over his head. I realise I have made a macedoine of metaphors, but Esler's scorn has left me somewhat stunned. His principal target this morning is Washington as a seat of government — or rather mis-government. Quoting Thomas Jefferson, he suggests that a little rebellion might be rather a good thing. "Perhaps", he adds subversively and in a Bostonian context, "all America might be refreshed by another tea-party."

The Chocolate Kiddies. *Radio 4, 9.30pm.*

Why chocolate? Because of their skins. But why kiddies? That suggests juvenility, something nobody would ever have said about this ensemble of black musicians, singers and dancers who took jazz to Europe in the 1920s and, as Tony Staveacre explains it, nudged European popular music in a new direction. Sam Wooding, inexplicably ignored by many jazz historians, was the company boss. Lead trumpeter was "Doc" Cheatham, now 92, and still blowing. In Germany, The Chocolate Kiddies helped pave the way for the Berlin cabarets that Christopher Isherwood memorably wrote about. After they returned to the US in 1931, the Nazis branded all black entertainers degenerate and outlawed them.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe *9.00* Kevin Greening **12.00** Mary Anne Hobbs **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, includes The Chart Hour and predictions for the weekend's Top 40 **7.00** Pete Tong: Essential Selection **10.00** One in the Jungle **12.00** Radio 1 Rap Show **3.00am** Annie Nightingale

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Sarah Kennedy, includes **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Wowlsbgroovy. With Toyah Willcox and Jeffrey Holland **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night. From the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London. BBC Concert Orchestra, under Robin Stapleton **8.45** Jamaica Inn (10/10) **9.00** Listen to the Band **10.00** Joan Bakewell **12.05am** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am *Morning Reports* *6.00* The Breakfast Programme **8.35** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.05pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Parkinson on Sport **8.30** Friday Sport. Presented by Robin Bailey. Football: Tranmere v Swindon from the Nationwide League. Cricket: An update on the England tour party in New Zealand **10.05** Paper Talk, with Jay Rayner and Brian Alexander **11.00** Night Extra, with Steve McCormack **12.05** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night, with *Richard Dallyn*

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Philip Hodson **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Drivetime, with Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour.
5.30am Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** Shared Experiences **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Music Review **8.45** Early Versions **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Focus on Faith **9.45** Sport **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.30** Meridian Books **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Science in Action **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.05** Sport **3.15** Early Versions **3.30** Music Review **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.30** Focus on Faith **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** People and Politics **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sport **11.10** Spotlight **11.15** Insider's Guide **11.25** Book Choice **11.30** Multitrack **12.30am** Seven Days **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Science in Action **3.15** Sport **3.30** Meridian Live **4.30** Jazz Now and Then **4.45** Seven Days

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto. Franz Krommer (Flute Concerto in G Major, Op 30) **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata. Mozart (Piano Sonata No 12 in F major) **7.00** Showcase **8.00** Concert. J Strauss Jr (The Gypsy Baron, Overture); Sarasate (Zigeunerweisen, Op 20); Ravel (Bolero; Tzigane) and Khachaturian (Gayaneh, Suite) **10.00** Nick Bailey **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Richard Porter (AM) **10.00** Alan Freeman **12.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. *With Penny Gore.* Includes Gounod (Symphony No 2 in E flat); Debussy, orch Koechlin (Khamma); Charpentier (Magnificat); Falla, arr Berio (Siete Canciones Populares Espanolas); Schubert (Violin Concerto No 3 in G minor)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Catriona Young. Includes Mussorgsky, arr Rimsky-Korsakov (Scherzo in B flat); *Tchaikovsky, compl* Bogatyryov (Symphony No 7 in E flat); Musorgsky, arr Tchernov (St John's Night on the Bare Mountain)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes Mozart (Symphony No 32 in G, K318); Gordon Jacob (Suite for Recorder and String Orchestra); Bliss (Conversations); Eric Coates (Oxford Street, London Again); Bridge (The Hourglass)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Monteverdi
1.00pm News; St David's Hall Lunchtime Recital. Concert of music for two pianos with pianists Martin Jones, Richard McMahon, Anthony Goldstone and Caroline Clemmow. Moscheles (Les Contrastes); Wilberg (Fantasies on the themes of Bizet's Carmen)
2.00 How Do You Get To Carnegie Hall? In the first of a five-part series, mezzo Della Jones explains how practice makes her perfect. Then she is accompanied by pianist Malcolm Martineau in a selection of Negro spirituals by Xavier Montsalvatge
2.15 Music Restored. George Pratt introduces a concert given by the Yorkshire Baroque Soloists in the Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall, at the Music Department of the University of York. Includes Muffat (Florilegium Secundum No 1 in D minor); Charpentier (Pour le Sacre d'un Evesque); Muffat (Florilegium Secundum No 3 in A minor) (r)
3.00 Mining the Archive (r)
5.00 Music Machine. Tommy Pearson explores the origins *of pop songs*
5.15 In Tune, with Andrew Green. Includes Schubert (Lachen and Weinen)
7.30 Czech Philharmonic. The orchestra and the Czech-born conductor Libor Pesek team up in Birmingham to play three famous works by Dvorak: Othello, Cello Concerto in B minor and Symphony No 7 in D minor
9.15 Russia Five Years On. Professor Geoffrey Hosking talks to Sir Rodric Braithwaite, former British ambassador to Russia, who reflects on politics within the former Soviet Union and the differences between East and West (5/5)
9.40 Little Pieces of Russia. A selection of songs and Prokofiev's Piano Sonata No 5 performed by Yitkin Seow
10.00 Hear and Now. Sarah Walker introduces the first of a new series of concerts from the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London. Includes Frank Zappa (Peaches en Regalia); Steve Reich (Nagoya Marimbas)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Bernstein (r)
1.00am Through the Night

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.43 Skip All That
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. John Cleese talks to Sue Lawley (r)
9.45 United States of Anger. See Choice
10.00 *Let's Make Our Towns Nice Again* (FM)
10.00 An Act of Worship (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Wendy Austin
11.30 The Natural History Programme, with Joanna Pinnock
12.00 News; You and Yours. Clare Catford presents reports on consumer and social affairs
12.25pm The Food Programme 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping
2.00 Classic Serial: A Thousand Acres. Jane Smiley's Pulitzer prize-winning novel transposes the story of King Lear to contemporary Iowa. Larry Cook's decision to hand over his farm to his three daughters is sudden and uncharacteristic. With Trevor Peacock and Kate Harper (r)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift
4.00 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow visits an exhibition of recent work by sculptor Tony Cragg, and reads from the acclaimed first novel of Canadian writer Thomas Wharton
4.45 Short Story: A Real Disaster. Read by Richard Pearce
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Going Places, with David Stafford
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week, with Chris Serle
8.05 Any Questions? Chairman Jonathan Dimbleby presents this week's show from Hurst Green, Lancashire. With Michael Portillo, MP, Secretary of State for Defence; Lady Howe, chairperson of the Broadcasting Standards Council; Tessa Jowell, MP, shadow health minister, and Andrew Foster, controller of the Audit Commission
8.50 Ninety Not Out Almost 60 years ago H.W. "Bunny" Austin became the last British player to reach the men's singles semi-finals at Wimbledon. Now in his ninety-first year, he shares some memories with Ned Sherrin (r)
9.15 Letter *from America, by* Alistair Cooke
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. See Choice (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Scarlet and Black, by Stendhal. Read by Greg Wise (10/10)
11.00 Week Ending. The comedy revue team devour the news from the first week of 1997
11.25 Fourth Column, with John Diamond
11.45 Better Left Unsaid? Actress and writer Pui Fan Lee writes to her former lover
12.00 News
12.30 The Late Book: A Spell of Winter, by Helen Dunmore. Read by Janet Maw (3/5)
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** *MW 648; LW 198* (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

هكذا من الاصل

A break for Johnathan, consumed with zeal

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

He isn't a blonde, he won't wear short skirts and he doesn't answer to the name of Juliet, Kirsty or Alice. Life at the BBC cannot be easy for Johnathan Maitland.

Help, however, was at hand: Anne Robinson, to whom many a young journalist owes a career, was off doing something else for a couple of weeks and generously tossed the office keys to the only authentically crumpled member of the *Watchdog* team. "There you are, Johnathan, you have a go."

So Maitland, a man normally only happy with a telephone tucked under each ear and his head up a Zanussi, did. "Welcome to our first ever look at the world of entertainment," he said, donning a positively raffish black velvet jacket and casually unbuttoned red shirt for **Watchdog Entertainment Special** (BBC1).

It began well enough, with one of those *Watchdog* moments that makes his job so worthwhile. The newly knighted Paul McCartney (hurray!) was preventing the widow of a former Beatles roadie from selling hand-written lyrics, worth up to £60,000 if McCartney (boo!) stopped disputing ownership and let them go to auction. He would not. But shortly before Christmas, Maitland told us breathlessly, a McCartney aide arrived at Lily Evans's modest front door and suggested a "private arrangement", provided there was no fuss. Why had he changed his mind? One word, apparently: *Watchdog*. Goodness, you mean Macca watches it as well?

After last night's fuss, the private arrangement is presumably off and no doubt a special *Watchdog* helpline is to be set up for anybody else suffering from troublesome Beatles lyrics. "*Any progress there yet, Johnathan?*" Robinson will ask, with 30 seconds to go. "Well, an interesting call from George of Henley, who claims to have several hundred he'd like to sell and a very promising lead from a Yoko in New York, who not only says half the songs are hers but is also having trouble with her new Zanussi washer-dryer . . ."

That, however, was not all we had time for last night. There was something on the old perennial of theatre booking fees and an item about celebrity interviews that, for all Maitland's ingenuity, didn't work because Madonna (yes, she watches it too) behaved impeccably. Not only did she spot the questions he'd written on his hand ("how sweet — I do that too") she politely dismissed his preposterous inquiry about how she was coping with "getting more mature". "It's OK, you can say old". *To his credit, Maitland* admitted defeat.

We left him on stage at The Half Moon, Putney, pretending to be the Move, purportedly investigating whether ticket buyers have legal redress against old 1960s bands that have no original members in them. As Maitland said: "This is a consumer programme, after all." Next week, Roy Wood sues *Watchdog*? Assuming he *watches it too.*

Unexpectedly, the most fascinating television of the evening came by way of a 20-minute advertisement for the lobbying services of Sir Tim Bell. The riveting story of how Bell and the Communication Workers Union came together to scupper Michael Heseltine's plans to privatise the Post Office told us more about how political lobbying actually works than any of the other talking heads in Michael Cockerell's splendidly absorbing **A Word in the Right Ear** (BBC2).

Telling the story of how Heseltine was effectively mugged by the Tory party's own grass roots was Alan Johnson, the telegenic general secretary of the CWU. Daniel Harris, the youthful organiser of the union's astonishingly sophisticated campaign and Bell himself, supremely diplomatic to the last. No, he'd never used the phrase "set a thief to catch a thief" when pitching for the business: "*Set a Tory to catch a Tory, maybe.*"

The lobbying campaign was far too clever and elaborate to go into detail here, but what made the programme so watchable was the added subtext. Johnson casually adding that Bell (who reduced his fees for the union) was very much a Thatcherite and, therefore, possibly had a vested interest in humbling Heseltine and Cockerell, chipping in with a timely reminder that if this is what a modern, lobby-wise union could achieve with the Conservatives in office, just think what they might be capable of under Labour.

An older story was retold in **Disaster** (BBC2), a programme with the most unpromising of titles but, as it turned out, the most gripping and well told content. This was the story of what happened on July 6, 1988, the night most of us recall as the night *the Piper Alpha oilrig exploded.*

It was far more complicated than that and as narrator John Nettles calmly unravelled the story — chillingly annotating the familiar video footage as he went — far more distressing. Those whom the programme implicitly criticised (but never named) will feel that the oversimplification process went too far. The rest of us will just be grateful for the greater understanding that it delivered, particularly the tragic role played by nearby rigs which, by failing to stop pumping their own oil and gas production, effectively turned Piper Alpha into a giant Bunsen burner. This was restrained, responsible, first-class television.

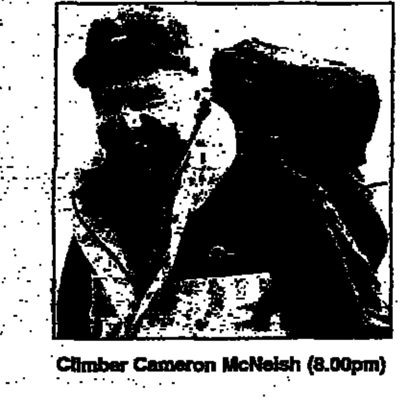
But no night in 1997 is complete without at least one documentary about the Skeleton Coast of Namibia. Last night's **Survival** (ITV) was the fourth in ten days and there are more to come. Des and Jen Bartlett's contribution was *some lovely pictures of Namib* Desert elephants sliding down sand dunes. I added it to my fast-growing collection.

BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (13855)
7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (27233)
9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (4041229)
9.20 ALL OVER THE SHOP (8004403)
9.45 KILROY (1138855)
10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (53213)
11.00 NEWS (T) **REGIONAL NEWS** and weather (5431107)
11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (8730364)
11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE with Roy Hudd (6381774)
12.00 NEWS (T) **REGIONAL NEWS** and weather (7029126)
12.05pm INCOGNITO Peter Smith hosts the quiz final (6250010)
12.30 CALL MY BLUFF (4993585)
12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (27571132)
1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (77710)
1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (44088126)
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (74980923)
2.05 FILM: Columbo — Now You See Him (1975) starring Peter Falk. A stage illusionist resorts to murder when a business associate tries to blackmail him (T) (3234687)
3.30 PLAYDAYS (3998584) **3.50** The Friday Zone (1435774) **4.55** Newsround Extra (T) (7281229) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (1992478)
5.35 NEIGHBOURS (r) (T) (988869)
6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (519)
6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (671)
7.00 BIG BREAK Snooker players Peter Ebdon, Gary Wilkinson and Mark King cue up to help contestants win big prizes (T) (4958)
7.30 TOP OF THE POPS (T) (855)
8.00 DAD'S ARMY Classic comedy. Corporal Jones and Privates Godfrey and Fraser are in danger of being thrown out of the Home Guard because of their considerable age (r) (T) (7478)
8.30 NOEL'S TELLY YEARS New series of the nostalgia show in which Noel Edmonds looks back fondly at the TV, fads and fashions of a chosen year with guests who were very much in the public eye at the time (T) (9213)
9.00 NEWS (T) and weather (5045)
9.30 *HETTY WAINTHROPP INVESTIGATES* The detective goes undercover in a battered women's refuge to find out which of the residents has betrayed the strict secrecy surrounding the place's whereabouts. Starring Patricia Routledge (T) (914381)
10.25 FILM: Escape from Alcatraz (1979) starring Clint Eastwood and Patrick McGoohan. Drama based on the true story of a convict's daring attempt to break out of the notorious high-security prison on Alcatraz Island. Directed by Don Siegel (971652)
12.10am FILM: The Day of the Triffids (1962) Howard Keel stars in this adaptation of John Wyndham's novel as one of a small *group still able to see after the world's* population is blinded and taken over by semi-intelligent plants. Directed by Steve Sekely (724324)
1.45 WEATHER (2526904)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in *the Video PlusCode for the programme you* wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

7.15am SEE HEAR BREAKFAST NEWS (6235768) **7.30** Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch (2847045) **7.55** The Really Wild Show (2561300) **8.20** Just So Stories (3100942) **8.35** Lassie (3618855)
9.00 DAYTIME ON TWO: THE FRENCH EXPERIENCE (4058519) **9.15** The Statistics Collection (912107) **9.45** Watch (8440652) **10.00** Playdays (69403) **10.30** Hotch Potch House (5754652) **10.50** Focus (4469855) **11.00** Look and Read (5289316) **11.20** Short Circuit (5493300) **11.40** English Time: Throwaways (6208497) **12.00** English File: Death of a Salesman (42107) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (79749) **1.00** Scene (77792) **1.30** Le Club (44060720) **1.45** Words and Pictures (44161403) **2.00** Just So Stories (86526942)
2.10 SPORT ON FRIDAY Includes highlights *of Tim Henman's semi-final in Sydney.* The commentator is Barry Davies (332942) **3.50** News (1541584)
4.00 DARTS: WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (8107)
6.00 UFO Sci-fi drama (982774)
6.45 ELECTRIC CIRCUS Showbiz news magazine (578519)
7.00 TIMEWATCH: The Real Rasputin A film biography that sets out to prove that Rasputin was neither a monk nor mad (r) (T) (828942)
7.50 A WEEK TO REMEMBER (b/w) (853652)



Climber Cameron McNeish (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE ***WILDERNESS WALKS*** Rock-climber Cameron McNeish embarks on a series of long-distance walks to celebrate our wildest places. In the first programme, he is joined by Olympic gold medallist Chris Brasher to traverse the high summits and passes of the Cairngorm mountain range (T) (8720)
8.30 GARDENING FROM SCRATCH Three back gardens are transformed under the watchful eye of gardening expert Helen Yemm (r) (T) (7855)
9.00 FILM: Wayne's World (1992) Teenage comedy starring Mike Myers and Dana Carvey. Directed by Penelope Spheeris (T) (4316)
10.28 VIDEO NATION SHORTS (106497)
10.30 NEWSNIGHT with Kirsty Wark (T) (492519)
11.15 SPACE ABOVE AND BEYOND New sci-fi adventure series, beginning with a *feature-length pilot. A future society is* forced to take arms after discovering an evil alien race is heading towards Earth, sparking the threat of an intergalactic war (622652)
12.45am DARTS: WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP *Dougie Donnelly introduces* action from the last two quarter-finals at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green (6754140)
1.50 WEATHER (2521459)

CHOICE

Wilderness Walks
BBC2, 8.00pm

Cameron McNeish (no prizes for guessing where he comes from) puts on his walking boots, gets himself a celebrity companion and tackles six tough terrains in Scotland, Ireland and Baffin Island. The series opens at a racecourse but only to introduce the first of McNeish's co-walkers, Chris Brasher, who has a horse running. As the pair set off for a 20-mile trek through the Cairngorms, which takes in the summit of Britain's second highest mountain. Brasher proves excellent value. The former Olympic gold medallist and organiser of the London Marathon obviously feels that at 76 he is too old to be politically correct. Otherwise he would not liken mountains to a part of the female anatomy. He also has forthright views on land ownership in Scotland, which he declares to be a disgrace.

Betjeman Revisited
Channel 4, 8.00pm

Nigel Hawthorne introduces a second selection of films made by John Betjeman in the early 1960s and only recently rediscovered. Although these short essays on West Country towns predate Betjeman's more substantial television work, such as the delightful *Metroland*, they contain the essence of his approach. There is the relish for old buildings, the feeling for English landscape and the amused but never malicious observation of everyday lives. Only two of the five films in the series have survived intact. On the others Betjeman's commentary has been reconstructed from his scripts and is spoken by Hawthorne in an acceptable approximation of the distinctive voice. We start in Devizes in Wiltshire and discover how much (and, thankfully, how little) it has changed since Betjeman walked its streets 35 years ago.

Dressing For Breakfast
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Beatie Edney returns as Louise, approaching 30, still single and seemingly fated to stay that way. Not that she would not like to meet Mr Right, it is just that he is either invisible or otherwise committed. This would be a slim excuse for a sitcom were it not for Stephanie Calman's perceptive scripts, perfectly delivered by the well-cast ensemble. Louise's situation is contrasted with those of her best friend (Holly Aird), who has a live-in man (Nigel Lindsay), but a singularly drippy one, and mother Liz (Charlotte Cornwell). As the new series opens Mum has just lost her second husband (Louise's step-father), the cue for some blackish humour about funerals and grief. Liz's bereavement means that *Dressing For Breakfast* now has two unattached women, a fact that Calman will surely not be slow to exploit.

Spin City
Channel 4, 9.30pm

The tiny, boyish Michael J. Fox as deputy mayor of New York City is improbable casting even for a sitcom, though his role has less to do with governing than rescuing his dim and amiable boss from gaffes and mishaps. Fox's Michael Flaherty is a spin doctor and a busy one as, first, the city is crippled by a garbage strike and, secondly, the mayor unwittingly insults the gay community. Part of the joke is that while Michael is the king of the sound-bite at work, he stumbles to find the right words to appease his girlfriend (Carla Gugino) who wants to put their relationship on a more permanent footing. As with many American comedies, *Spin City* is stronger on slick one-liners than depth of character but it is a funny and likeable show which moves at a brisk pace.

Peter Waymark

6.00am GMTV (1964229)
9.25 WIN, LOSE OR DRAW (8316294)
9.55 REGIONAL NEWS (5339519)
10.00 THE TIME, THE PLACE (63229)
10.30 THIS MORNING (53442403)
12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (7136229)
12.30 NEWS (4084881)
12.55 WISH YOU WERE HERE? (r) (T) (4996652) **1.25** Home and Away (r) (T) (71903792) **1.55** Murder, She Wrote (8421316) **2.50** Get A Life! (9456010)
3.20 NEWS (6539403)
3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (6533774)
3.30 ROSIE AND JIM (1545505) **3.40** Dafty Duck (2194949) **3.55** Zzzap! New series (3075627) **4.15** Jumanji New series (1775039) **4.40** Gladiators Train to Win (9626328)
5.10 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (8151294)
5.40 NEWS (T) and weather (397045)
6.00 HOME AND AWAY (r) (T) (751382)
6.25 HTV NEWS (T) (333039)
7.00 WHEEL OF FORTUNE (T) (6126)
7.30 CORONATION STREET Stephen Reid springs a surprise on business partner Mike Baldwin, and Vera pays an unexpected visit to Tricia and Jamie (T) (923)
8.00 THE BILL A loan shark discovers his business records have been stolen and reckons his chum DS Beech is the man to get them back (T) (8774)
8.30 EYE SPY Selina Scott presents more real-life crimes including a bank robber *rumbled when he tried to buy a new coat* and how the RSPCA uses video footage to investigate animal cruelty (T) (4381)

Susannah York stars as Liz (9.00pm)

9.00 *THE RUTH RENDELL MYSTERIES: A* Dark Blue Perfume A man returns to his home town after living abroad for almost 30 years, intending to start afresh. However, his hopes of happiness are dashed when it transpires the memory of *a failed love affair still haunts him — and* his desperate efforts to exorcise its ghost lead to tragedy. Starring Susannah York, John Castle, Rowena Cooper and David Ryall (T) (4855)
10.00 NEWS (T) and weather (36590)
10.29 REGIONAL WEATHER (193923)
10.30 FILM: Defending Your Life (1991) starring Albert Brooks, Meryl Streep and Rip Torn. A yuppie is killed in a car crash and whisked off to a heavenly place *where he must defend his record of life on* Earth in front of a tribunal, little realising another new arrival will steal his heart away. (30290671)
12.45 FUNKY BUNKER (r) (453237) **1.45** Club Nation (442121) **2.45** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (r) (79817) **3.15** Customs Classified (6528324) **4.05** Dear Nick (r) (1382091) **5.00** Coronation Street (r) (T) (87879) **5.30** News

As HTV West except:
12.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (4996652)
1.50 MURDER, SHE WROTE (2340497)
2.50-3.20 OUR HOUSE (9456010)
5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (8151294)
6.25-7.00 CENTRAL NEWS (333039)
10.40 CENTRAL WEEKEND LIVE (17906010)
12.15am WEEKLY WORLD NEWS (50782)
1.45 BAYWATCH (4487362)
2.35 CYBER CAFE (1940430)
3.05 MOVIE CLUB (32885185)
3.35 GOD'S GIFT (6175362)
4.30 CENTRAL JOBFINDER '97 (1676186)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 EMMERDALE (4996652)
1.50 HIGH ROAD (74995855)
5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (8151294)
6.00-7.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (74294)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (4996652)
1.50 JUSTICE OF THE LAND (74995855)
2.20 MURDER, SHE WROTE (9403300)
5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (8151294)
6.00-7.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (74294)

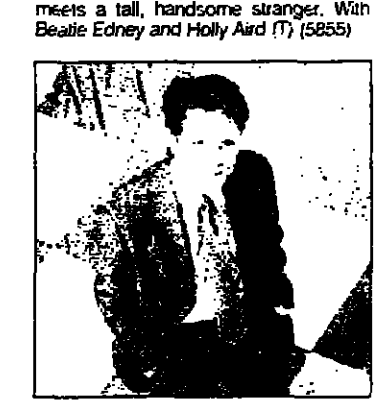
ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 CROSSWITS (4996652)
1.50 MURDER, SHE WROTE (8340497)
2.50-3.20 TIMPSON'S COUNTRY CHURCHES (9456010)
5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (8151294)
6.25-7.00 ANGLIA NEWS (333039)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am SESAME STREET (14215)
7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (90861)
9.00 HANGIN' WITH MR COOPER (57039)
9.30 YSGOLION (807229)
12.00 THE LIVING SEA (33403)
12.30pm *HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER* (60045)
1.00 SLOT MEITHRIN (97720)
1.30 Film: SILK STOCKINGS (21482565)
3.40 THE DECISION (3078774)
4.00 SICK WOMEN, SMART DOCTORS (652)
4.30 CLASSIC TRAINS (836)
5.00 5 PUMP (4872)
5.30 COUNTDOWN (316)
6.00 NEWYDDION (682671)
6.05 HENO (951120)
6.35 GAIR AM AUR (951213)
7.00 POBOL Y CWM (269519)
7.25 Y SIOE GELF (527316)
8.00 CEFN GWLAD: TREBOR EDWARDS (6316)
8.30 NEWYDDION (2923)
9.00 PAWB A'I FARN (277836)
9.45 POBL Y PWLL (607381)
10.00 BROOKSIDE (34132)
10.30 CAPTAIN BUTLER (668010)
11.05 THE GIRLIE SHOW (230861)
11.35 TFI FRIDAY (904294)
12.40am DANI DARES (7931053)
1.10 Film: MUSCLE BEACH PARTY (269508)
3.00 Film: HOUND-DOG MAN (807035)

6.00am SESAME STREET (14215)
7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (90661)
9.00 HANGIN' WITH MR COOPER (r) (57039)
9.30 SCHOOLS (T) (807229)
12.00 LIVING SEA (T) (33403)
12.30pm HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER (r) (60045)
1.00 CRAWSHAW PAINTS CONSTABLE COUNTRY (19309313)
1.25 THE NEEDY AND THE GREEDY (80372294)
1.50 FILM: The Love Lottery (1953) Ealing *comedy starring David Niven, Peggy* Cummins and Anne Vernon. Directed by Charles Crichton (82876403)
3.25 A CHILD'S GRIEF (r) (4325720)
4.00 FRANCES BISSELL'S WEST COUNTRY KITCHEN (5/6) (652)
4.30 COUNTDOWN (T) (836)
5.00 ROCKET MEN (r) (3039)
6.00 TFI FRIDAY The guests include Jimmy Nail and Beverley Callard (72836)
7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (T) (545107)
7.55 SAVE A LIFE (863039)
8.00 CHOICE **BETJEMAN REVISITED** Nigel Hawthorne introduces the first of five restored films (T) (6316)
8.30 BROOKSIDE (T) (2923)
9.00 CHOICE **DRESSING FOR BREAKFAST** New seven-part series charting the romantic trials of Louise. At her stepfather's funeral Louise meets a tall, handsome stranger. With *Beatie Edney and Holly Aird* (T) (5855)



Michael J. Fox in *Spin City* (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **SPIN CITY** New American comedy starring Michael J *Fox as the Deputy Mayor of New York City* (T) (77381)
10.00 ROSEANNE: Call Waiting In the first of a new series, Roseanne is refusing to talk to Dan after they have a huge row. Featuring a cameo appearance by Ed Asner (T) (34132)
10.30 CAPTAIN BUTLER Romance comes into the life of Butler in the form of a mermaid (T) (2/6) (668010)
11.05 THE GIRLIE SHOW (1/12) (230861)
11.35 TFI FRIDAY *(r) (904294)*
12.40am DANI DARES Dani Behr spends a week with a Los Angeles bounty hunter (T) (7931053)
1.10 FILM: Muscle Beach Party (1964) Musical starring Frankie Avalon and Annette Funicello and Peter Lorre. Directed by William Asher (269508)
3.00 FILM: Hound-Dog Man (1959) Musical starring Fabian and Stuart Whitman and directed by Don Siegel (807035)
4.35-6.10 FILM: Don't Knock the Rock (1956 b/w) Musical featuring Bill Haley and the Comets and Little Richard. Directed by Fred F. Sears (71031275)

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory,** ***published on Saturday***

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Mix (206861) **9.00** Designing Women (75409) **9.30** Designing Women (15565) **10.00** Another World (31132) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (55768) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (59838) **1.00pm** Geraldo (14836) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (11838) **3.00** Jenny Jones (10590) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (33497) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (1403) **6.00** Real TV (1565) **6.30** Married — with Children (8045) **7.00** The Simpsons (2132) **7.30** MASH (4229) **8.00** JAG (53749) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (66213) **10.00** High Incident (69300) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (32861) **12.00** LAPD (15091) **12.30am** The Lucy Show (69324) **1.00** Hit Mix Long Play (25140)

SKY 2

7.00pm *Beverly Hills 90210* (5304519) **8.00** Melrose Place (8217039) **9.00** Pacific Drive (8393403) **10.00** Tales from the Crypt (6824923) **10.30** Tales from the Crypt (8833671) **11.00** Late Show (7304126) **12.00** Hit Mix Long Play (9311343)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Demetrius and the Gladiators (1954) (20382) **8.00 *Flipper*** (1963) (46836) **10.00 Roller Boogie** (1979) (20497) **12.00 Sweet Talker** (1990) (25039) **2.00pm Ice Castles** (1979) (50852) **4.00 The Skateboard Kid** (1993) (4687) **6.00 Rudy** (1993) (43316) **8.00 The Chase** (1994) (49861) **10.00 Just Cause** (1995) (361126) **11.45 Blue Chips** (218497) **1.35am Moving Violations** (1985) (9006188) **3.05 Trapped and Deceived** (1994) (8398362) **4.35 The Skateboard Kid** (1993) (17671275)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Sun Valley Serenade (1941) (72045) **7.30 A Christmas Carol** (1979) (75132) **8.30 Duncan's World** (61045) **10.00 Will Any Gentleman? U** (1953) (28039) **12.00 My Family Treasure** (1993) (16381) **2.00pm Don't Talk to Strangers** (1994) (56294) **4.00 Duncan's World** (8749) **6.00 Three Little Ninjas** (1990) (64045) **7.30 UK Top 10** (4039) **8.00 Jack and Sarah** (1995) (46403) **10.00 Addicted to Love** (1995) (893300) **11.35 Desperate Remedies** (1993) (742497) **1.10am Wes Craven's New Nightmare** (1994) (698595) **3.05 Sparrow** (1994) (169140) **4.55 A Christmas Carol** (1979) (39871850)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm International Velvet (1978) (46102300) **6.10 Crazy Mama** (1975) (25340671) **8.00 Rikki and Pete** (1988) (9961652) **10.00 Go Tell the Spartans** (1978) (71481671) **12.05am All the Right Moves** (1983) (7564053) **1.40 The Last Detail** (1973) (2291633) **3.25-5.20 Meet Me in St Louis** (1944) (8102546)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Mouse Tracks (3884010) **6.25** Quack Attack (3756045) **6.50** Bonkers (8130213) **7.15** The Little Mermaid (9669403) **7.40** Aladdin (4958519) **8.05** Mighty Ducks (9662584) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (5155652) **8.40** The Care Bears (6296720) **9.10** Grounding Marsh (3834328) **9.40** Big Garage (8598045) **9.55** Lamb Chop's Play Along! (6527836) **10.25** Muppet Babies (4444318) **10.55** Adventures in Wonderland (6008107) **11.25** Mouse Tracks (6200132) **11.55** Under the Umbrella Tree (4711584) **12.25pm** Fraggle Rock (4733126) **12.55** Walt Disney Presents (3255328) **1.45** Aladdin (92078881) **2.10** The Little Mermaid (85830590) **2.35** Bonkers (7564739) **3.00** Quack Attack (7204836) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (9668585) **3.35** *Goof Troop* (4911942) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (3233126) **4.10** Goof Troop (1066836) **4.35** Bonkers (2996346) **5.00** Aladdin (3549478) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (1512497) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (803359) **6.00** Sky Trackers (9381) **6.30** *FILM: Rent-A-Kid* (90584) **8.00** *FILM: The Four Diamonds* (71403) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (88823)
Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (78687) **7.30** World Wrestling Federation: Superstars (31768) **8.30** Racing News (92749) **9.00** Sports Centre (89229) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (25519) **10.00** Fishing: Tight Lines (80478) **11.00** Netbusters (93942) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (98585) **12.30pm** Ice Hockey (479841) **3.00** Trans World Sport (58774) **4.00** Sports Unlimited (64381) **4.59** Sports Centre (9520107) **5.00** Netbusters (2279) **6.00** Sports Centre (31126) **7.00** Trans World Sport (91923) **8.00** Fishing: Marlin World Cup (84687) **10.00** Sports Centre (90294) **11.00** Hold the Back Page (81107) **12.00-1.00** World Wrestling Federation Raw (52121) **1.00** Fishing Marlin World Cup (97879) **3.00** Sports Centre (20430)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00am The Rugby Club (2399233) **9.00** NHL Power Week (3545377) **10.00** World Wrestling Federation (3332534) **11.00** Big League Classics (4940478) **12.30-1.00** Second Innings (1617817)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Bud Surfing Tour (87248107) **1.00pm** Football League Review (98429861) **2.30** Futbol Mundial (81345871) **3.00** Tight Lines (43114213) **4.00** US Golf: Mercedes Championship (75744687) **6.00** Bud Surfing Tour (67348519) **7.00** Live Friday Night Football (81616652) **10.00-12.00** Mercedes Championship (43113584)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Rally Raid (75590) **8.00** Ski-Jumping (49381) **9.00** Football (29039) **10.30** Rally Raid (80381) **11.00** Live Alpine Skiing (88010) **12.00** Motorsports Report (20010) **1.00pm** Adventure (19958) **2.00** Tennis (238855) **5.00** Alpine Skiing (1045) **6.00** Speed — Live Skating (83377) **7.30** Football — Live (53720) **9.30** Rally Raid (38039) **10.00** Strongman (81590) **11.00** Snowboarding (87478) **11.30** Car on Ice (45861) **12.00-12.30** Rally Raid (48343)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (8685132) **6.30** Tickle on the Tum (34606552) **6.45** The Magic Ball (26869316) **7.00** Albions (5301652) **7.15** Tickle on the Tum (8305039) **7.30** Cabwatch (1258364) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (1439126) **8.30** Families (1438487) **9.00** Dempsey and Makepeace (8598652) **10.00** Split Ends (4265768) **10.30** The Cuckoo Waltz (1514861) **11.00** Shabby Tiger (9359312) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (1432213) **12.30pm** Families (9458584) **1.00** Albion Market (5653120) **1.30** World in Action (9457855) **2.00** All for Love (4258497) **3.00** Bouquet of Barbed Wire (9530300) **4.00** The Doctor Series (2046768) **4.30** Split Ends (2035652) **5.00** Dempsey and Makepeace (3841565) **6.00** Classic Coronation Street (2129045) **6.30** Families (2047497) **7.00** The Doctor Series (3842294) **7.30** The Cuckoo Waltz (2036381) **8.00** Bouquet of Barbed Wire (6755039) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (4953749) **9.35** The Good Life Guide (2877738) **10.00-11.00** Dempsey and Makepeace (8834590)
From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors

Joan Sims and Sidney James in *Carry On Girls* (UK Gold, 9.35pm)

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From 6.00am-9.00 TV High Street. Includes consumer news and features
From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine. Includes recipes and ideas from Delia Smith
From 12.00-3.00pm Health and Beauty. Includes Natural Health
From 3.00-6.00 Home and Garden. Includes The Good Life Style Guide

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography Christopher Columbus (6861010) **5.00** Ancient Mysteries (1443855) **6.00** Weapons at War (1571403) **7.00-8.00** *Biography* Jesse Jackson (9945313)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Films, features and classic series every day from **8pm-4am** Monday to Wednesday and **1am-4am** Thursday to Sunday on satellite, and from **8am-4am** every day on cable **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (6226614) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (9413053) **2.00** New Alfred Hitchcock (3729965) **2.30** Rod Serling's Night Gallery (3731701) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th (7234633)

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Painting (3307861) **9.30** *Gardeners' Diary* (6017869) **10.00** Go Fishing (9684039) **10.30** Our House (3903045) **11.00** The Painted House (4981126) **11.30** This Old House (4332655) **12.00** Sweet Things (3821497) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (2417835) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (3307478) **1.30** Home Again *(3867348)* ***2.00*** *Hometime (8114923)* **2.30** Furniture on the Mend (4125936) **3.00** Two's Country (8206958) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (9179331)
DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.
4.00pm Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (5478328) **4.30** Crocodile Hunters *(3573792)* ***5.00*** *Connections 2 by James* Burke (8201403) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (2824312) **6.00** Wild Things: Teeth of Death (2516854) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (8125039) **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (2123251) **8.00** Jurassica (8284039) **9.00** Justice Files (8360403) **10.00** Justice Files (8353590) **11.00** The Porsche Story (8317855) **12.00** Wings of the Luftwaffe (2450256) **1.00am** Driving Passions (2164256) **1.30-2.00** High Five (2509966)

UK GOLD

7.00am Going for Gold (7824300) **7.35** Neighbours (9279749) **8.00** Crossroads (7977836) **8.25** EastEnders (7470382) **9.00** The Bill (3916519) **9.30** Colditz (5730300) **10.30** The Sullivans (3905403) **11.00** Juliet Bravo (8398720) **12.00** Crossroads (8823855) **12.30pm** *Neighbours (8626133)* **1.00** EastEnders (6771229) **1.35** The Two Ronnies (6684749) **2.35** After the Show (8385836) **2.50** 'Allo 'Allo (8156923) **3.30** The Bill (3874949) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (4974836) **5.00** EastEnders (2236039) **5.35** Crossroads (3360039) **6.00** You Rang M'Lord? (65964126) **7.05** Every Second Counts (1734671) **7.45** The Best of Top of the Pops (7145687) **8.25** Ever Decreasing Circles (9172229) **9.00** The Bill (6424229) **9.35 FILM: Carry on Girls** (7215039) **11.15** The Late After the Show (1181229) **11.50 FILM: Doctor at Large** (7056652) **1.35am** Ripping Yarns (5970985) **2.10** Shopping at Night

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (5863858) **6.45** Pugwall (654671) **7.15** Saved by the Bell (651584) **7.45** California Dreams (650855) **8.15** Sweet Valley High (813497) **8.45** Art Attack (1876522) **9.00** Tiny TCC (4349251) **9.20** Brum (5995395) **9.40** Johnson and Friends (9683774) **9.50** Towser (9889958) **10.00** Robin and Rose of Cockleshell Bay (4203213) **10.15** King Rollo (1885039) **10.20** Philbert the Frog (1855652) **10.25** Christopher Crocodile (4282720) **10.40** Charlie Chalk (3473478) **11.00** Dinobabies (99045) **11.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (90774) **12.00** Barney (38519) **12.30pm** Where's Wally? (58861) **1.00** Casper and Friends (46346) **1.30** Tiny and Crew (11379300) **1.45** Teddy Trucks (57196126) **1.55** Johnson and Friends (75306045) **2.15** Babaloos (62044381) **2.20** Bump (62138774) **2.30** Christopher Crocodile (3888720) **2.40** Mr Benn (7873316) **3.00** Pugwall (5213) **3.30** Saved by the Bell (6671) **4.00** California Dreams (2478) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (7590)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (23872) **6.30** Biker Mice from Mars (65671) **7.00** Captain Simian and the Space Monkeys (76229) **7.30** Tales from the Cryptkeeper (82836) **8.00** Mighty Max (84720) **8.30** Hey Arnold! (96519) **9.00** Rugrats (36911) **9.30** Rugrats (16861) **10.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters (56923) **10.30** Doug (70355) **11.00** Rocko's Modern Life *(71671)* ***11.30*** *The Adventures of Pete and* Pete (72300) **12.00** The Secret World of Alex Mack (94107) **12.30pm** The Ren and Stimpy Show (21749) **1.00** The Ferals (95300) **1.30** Space Cases (13720) **2.00** Clarissa Explains It All (4132) **2.30** Doug (6652) **3.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters (7039) **3.30** Stickin' Around (8497) **4.00** Bruno the Kid (3132) **4.30** Rugrats (9316) **5.00** Sister Sister (2584) **5.30** Sister Sister (7768) **6.00** Moesha (7381) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (4861)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Family Ties (2720) **7.30** Benson (7395) **8.00** Entertainment UK (8768) **8.30** Hooperman (3403) **9.00** Bakersfield PD (68107) **9.30** Taxi (34213) **10.00** Wings (95836) **10.30** *London Underground* (59364) **11.00** Barry Welsh Is Coming (63652) **11.30** Frontline (52107) **12.00** Saturday Night Live (83091) **1.00am** Hooperman (78256) **1.30** Bakersfield PD (17633) **2.00** Entertainment UK (13492) **2.30** Barry Welsh Is Coming (32527) **3.00** Taxi (58492) **3.30-4.00** Wings (23879)

BRAVO

12.00 The Time Tunnel (4318836) **1.00pm** Remington Steele (7362756) **2.00** Department S (9682294) **3.00** Space 1999 (4980497) **4.00 FILM: Jacqueline Susann's Valley of the Dolls** (8124300) **6.00** Return of the Saint (7467300) **7.00** The Champions (8368045) **8.00** Alien Nation (8271565) **9.00** The Persuaders (8364229) **10.00-12.00 FILM: Tattoo** (4980768)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (6988145) **6.50** Trivial Pursuit (16931590) **7.10** Turnabout (4857942) **7.40** *The Young and the Restless (5582758)* **8.30** Choice Cuts (9960749) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (9103774) **9.10** Gabrielle (4357519) **10.05** Jerry Springer (3940229) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (2267039) **11.55** The New Mr and Mrs Show (88897955) **12.25pm** Call the Doctor (19629565) **12.55** *Tempest* (5198381) **1.45** Gordon Elliott (8989768) **2.30** Agony Experience (6262584) **3.00** Live at Three (69524584) **4.05** Jerry Springer (4607381) **5.05** Lingo (78652855) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (6256300) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (8736107) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (6408403) **7.05** Infatuation UK (7426855) **7.40** Who's Sorry Now? (6663805) **8.05** Rolonda (5072749) **9.00 FILM: Throw-away Wives** (9968565) **11.00-12.00** The Sex Files II (9712836)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Blockbusters (1978) **5.30** Through the Keyhole (5942) **6.00** All Clued Up (2855) **6.30** Catchphrase (3107) **7.00** The Pyramid Game (7294) **7.30** Hart to Hart (28774) **8.30** Only When I Laugh (2749) **9.00** The Father *Dowling Mysteries (33923)* ***10.00*** *Treasure* Hunt (36010) **11.00** Rising Damp (18126) **11.30** Duty Free (55861) **12.00** Lou Grant (81427) **1.00am** The Father Dowling Mysteries (57362) **2.00** Hart to Hart (34072) **3.00** Lou Grant (73546) **4.00** All Together Now (75256) **4.30-5.00** The Black Stallion (20633)

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Lifestyle East **8.30** *Campus* ***9.00*** *Shri Krishna* **9.30** Yaadon Ke Rang **10.00** Hasratein **10.30** Kahkashan **11.00** Zako Ka Safar **11.30** Tan Bhi Chup Meri Bhi Chup **12.00** Andaz **12.30pm** Nukkad **1.00 FILM: Thangamana Purushan** **4.00** Ramadan Special **4.30** Saanp Seedi **5.00** Zee Zone **6.00** Kya Scene Hai **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** BBCD **7.30** Aahaa **8.00** News **8.30** Parampara **9.05-12.00 FILM: Sangdil Sanam**

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 9pm, then TNT films as below.
7.00pm WCW Nitro on TNT (20874958) **8.00 Geronimo (1993)** (20781294) **10.00 The Hunger (1983)** (96297671) **11.45 Tarzan the Ape Man (1981)** (31730213) **1.45am Battle Beneath the Earth (1967)** (19790411) **3.25-5.00 Hysteria (1965)** (96423072)

PERFORMANCE

7.00pm Jarrett Peacock de Johnette 2 (8050590) **8.00** Le Nozze di Figaro (1845039) **11.00** Berlioz (9727768) **12.00-1.00am** Harvest Jazz (1196169)

TENNIS 40
Henman offers further proof of his progress

SPORT

CRICKET 44
Lloyd's faith in England remains unshaken

Barcelona manager is people's choice

Robson rises from fog on the Tyne

By Rob Hughes
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

KEVIN KEEGAN'S nameplate disappeared from the Newcastle United car park overnight, but between dawn and dusk yesterday the kites were being flown across the Toon, through the city of London, and to the Spanish peninsula in pursuit of who might succeed the Messiah as the new manager. Finally, late last night, the name of Bobby Robson appeared to be everyone's tip to "come home" to resettle in one last great challenge, managing the club he had supported as a boy.

Reports that Newcastle officials were meeting Robson, 64, in Barcelona last night helped reduce the odds about him succeeding Keegan from 12-1 to 2-1. However, yesterday morning Robson had insisted that he would see out the two-year contract binding him to the Catalan club until May 1998.

"I was shocked like everybody else when I heard Kevin had gone," Robson said from his office at the Nou Camp, Barcelona's headquarters. "But I've nothing to say about my name being linked. I work for Barcelona, the biggest and arguably the best club in the world. I've just started a two-year contract and the club is having its best start to any season in 33 years ... did you get that, 33 years!"

The passion in the Geordie's voice, the defiance against pressure that he says is politically motivated from other corners of Spain, was unmistakable. Robson, apparently the people's choice on Tyneside, had not heard that, according to Newcastle sources, a plane was on its way, bringing a three-man Newcastle United delegation to meet him in Barcelona.

Similarly, last night, John Toshack, the Welshman whose Deportivo La Coruña club Barcelona had beaten in a tumultuous match last Sunday, was at pains to deny *speculation on Spanish state* television that he was dining at the Marbella villa where Sir John Hall, the Newcastle chairman, is holidaying. Toshack is leaving Deportivo at the end of the season, possibly sooner.

Leading article 21
Gresley's appeal 42
Hall's moves 46
Lynne Truss 46

Names tumbled from Newcastle's tree of rumour like leaves in the fall. Brian Little, a much younger Geordie, admitted to being flattered by his inclusion, confessed his tremendous affection for Newcastle United, and said a few moments ahead of his own chairman, Doug Ellis, that he was staying at Aston Villa — the club that Newcastle visit tomorrow.

From Amsterdam, an agent speaking on behalf of Johan Cruyff, whom Robson replaced at Barcelona, reiterated that Cruyff is as unavailable to Newcastle as he has been to other big European clubs this season. Cruyff, who is suing the president of Barcelona after his dismissal, happens to be the new president of a new venture called World Soccer Sixes that involves Liverpool, Rangers, Ajax and AC Milan, and will later this month present a commercialised concept of six-a-side football. One of the directors of the new company, based on an idea by the former Liverpool player, Craig Johnston, is Kenny Dalglish.

Robson: committed to Barcelona until 1998

Dalglish, too, is on Newcastle's mind and, almost exclusively, he has not said he is unavailable. He has said nothing on the subject, which is nothing new for Dalglish. However, in the village of speculation that is Tyneside, Malcolm Macdonald, a former Newcastle centre forward, says he has it on good authority that Dalglish visited Sir John, a week ago.

Meanwhile, Sir John contacted the *Evening Chronicle* in Newcastle to insist that he was staying at the club ... or rather, more vaguely, that he was committed to a future that, this season, had everything to play for — the FA Carling Premiership, the FA Cup, the Uefa Cup. While the players trained, each of them committed to silence, while the speculators surrounding the proposed stockmarket flotation of Newcastle imagined that they hold the balance of power in deciding the new man, uncertainty festered.

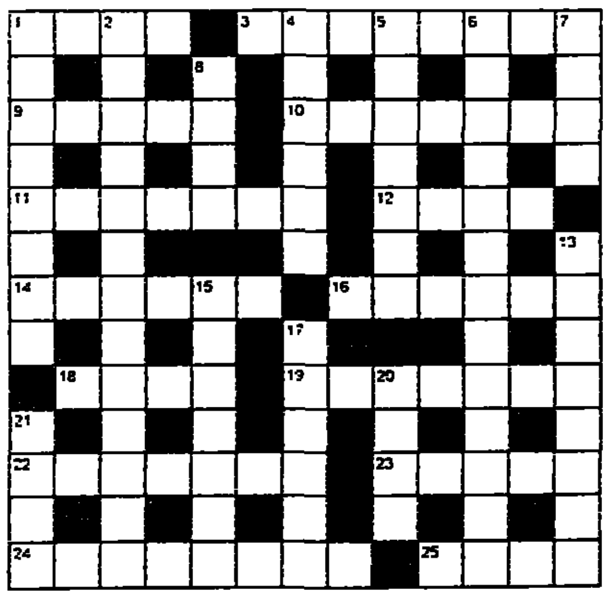
It is said that the bankers would not accept Dalglish, would not be any more certain that he, despite winning the championship as manager of Liverpool and Blackburn Rovers, would be any less likely to walk away than Keegan has been.

Within Newcastle, the not unreasonable sway is towards one of their own. Robson, furious at interpretations within Spain that his coaching philosophy is alien to the game there, determined to prove himself as successful there as he did in winning championships for PSV Eindhoven and FC Porto. He is adamant that his future lies with Barcelona's next game, against Hercules at the Nou Camp on Monday.

An honest man, telling it like it is. Yet the kite keeps flying, the people of Tyneside, said to be the strength of a twelfth man to the team, cling to the symmetry of Robson coming home. His father, like Kevin Keegan's and like Sir John's, came from Durham mining stock. So, the Geordies are digging in.

The past five years has been an inflated period, even if the passions there can seem like a coal fire compared to the inferno, the mix of separatist political fervour and football that pays Robson a millionaire's salary in Barcelona. It might just be the time to defuse things a little on the Tyne, to accept that an outsider not blinded by passion, could come and take the team that Keegan built to a championship no one has celebrated at Newcastle for 70 years. The stealth, perhaps, of Dalglish"

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



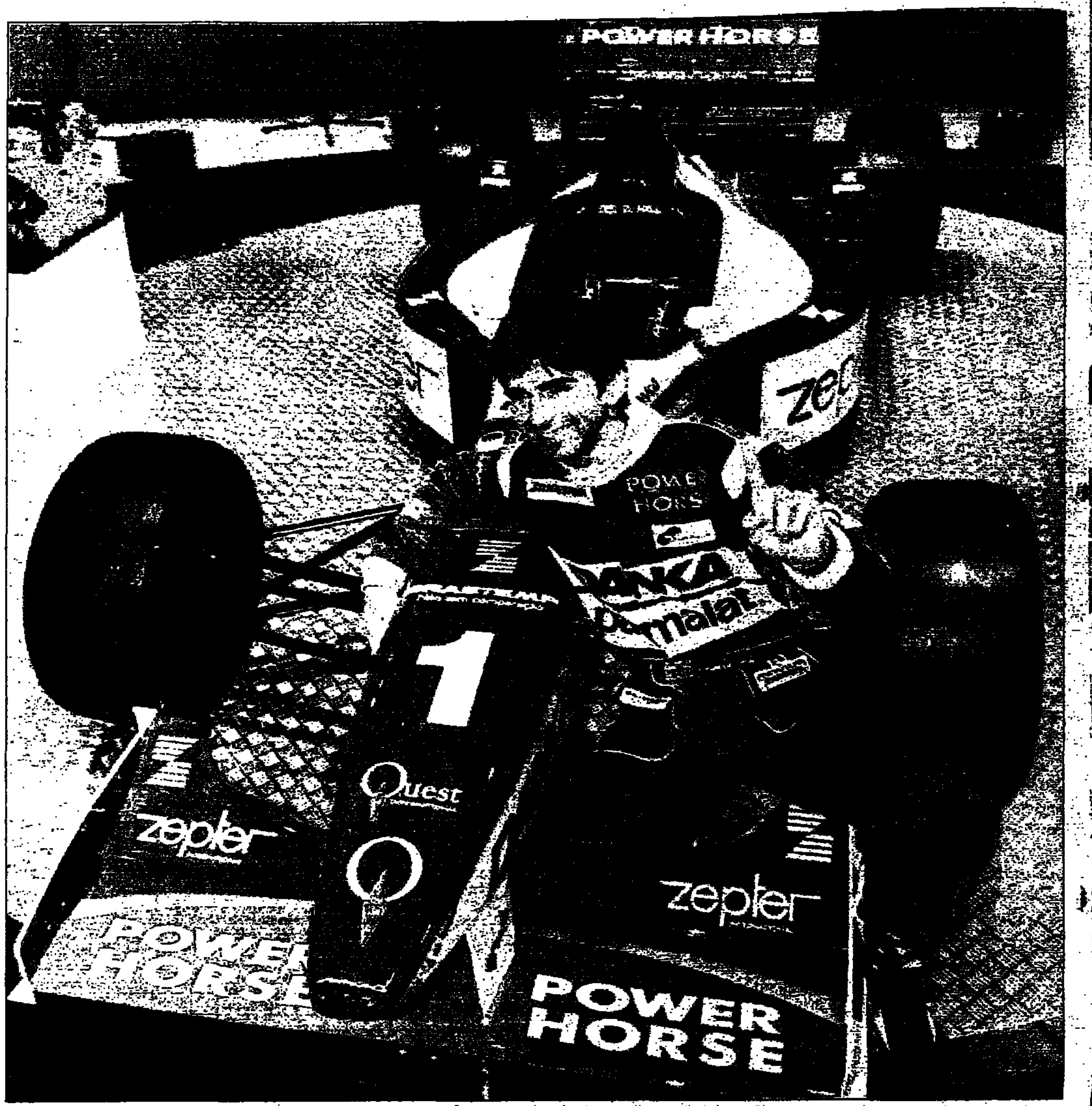
No 987

ACROSS
1 Drug-affected: (game) slightly off (4)
3 Tending to silence (8)
9 Aromatic flavouring (5)
10 Keep: *dialect (anag.)* (7)
11 Instance: pattern (7)
12 Gloomy darkness (4)
14 Angular unit, app. 57° (6)
16 Have ambition (6)
18 Dispose of (4)
19 Little thorn (7)
22 Colleague, ally (7)
23 Unaccompanied (5)
24 Drama interval: its music (8)
25 Check and correct (text) (4)

DOWN
1 Pub (8)
2 Tolerate what can't be changed (4,3,4,2)
4 Bowman (6)
5 Narrow neck of land (7)
6 Llaregyb play *(Dylan Thomas)* (5,4,4)
7 River of Sudan, Egypt (4)
8 Agency secretary (4)
13 Deeply respectful (8)
15 Site of 1996 Olympics (7)
17 Soul: mood: alcohol (6)
20 Teheran its capital (4)
21 Church recess (4)

The solution to 986 will be published Wednesday, January 15

PRICES INCLUDE DELIVERY TO EU CUSTOMERS (rest of the world add £1 per item). Send SAE for further details. Sterling/US Dollar cheques only [illegible]. TIMES CROSSWORDS - Books [illegible] £4.25 each. **The Times Concise** - Book 2 [illegible] £6.25. **The Times Quiz Book 1996 £4.75. Crossword Solver's Dictionary £11.95 (UK only).** The First Omnibus Book of The Sunday Times Crosswords, The 2nd Omnibus Book of The Times Crosswords, The Third Book of The Times Jumbo Crosswords (Cryptic) £5.25 each. **The Times Night Sky 1997 £3.75**
TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS by David Akenhead — Crosswords on Computer 3.5 diskette [illegible] **Times Crosswords** [illegible] **The Times Concise** [illegible] **The Times Two** [illegible] **— The Times Jubilee Edition 1932-87** (1) (Brackets denote number of diskettes)
Prices per title/diskette: 1 2 Additional disks
IBM MS-DOS and Acorn RISC-OS [illegible] [illegible] £5 each Please specify
NEW Windows version for IBM PCs [illegible] [illegible] £8 each (inc VAT)
Send cheque with order payable to **Akom Ltd**, 51 Manor Lane, London, SE13 5QW. Tel 0181-[illegible] (24hrs). No credit cards. Delivery in 5 days.



Hill was in relaxed mood when his Arrows Yamaha A18 was unveiled at the National Exhibition Centre yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Hill outlines his target with Arrows

By Oliver Holt

A BRASS band led Damon Hill onto the stage yesterday. Fireworks fizzed and popped as the crowd applauded and a shower of sparks cascaded down over him and the new car that will be the vehicle for the next stage of his career. The announcer asked him *about his hopes for the season,* but Hill seemed faintly preoccupied. "I think there's something missing, Bob," he said.

Exactly what was never revealed and, as the festivities surrounding the launch of the new Arrows Yamaha at the Autosport International Show in Birmingham wore on, it mattered less and less.

Hill was happy and relaxed, still bathing in his world champion's aura, relishing the hard work ahead after a winter festooned with richly deserved honours and awards. Dressed in the unfamiliar livery of his new team, he said the Arrows Yamaha A18 was "a sexy little number".

It will be a step back for him at first, that much is not open to question. After winning 21 races out of 67 starts with Williams, there was only one way to go when he left. Hill's body language, his demeanour, his comments and the mood within the team, though, suggest it may not be too long before he starts climbing back towards the summit he reached in Suzuka last October.

There was even talk from Tom Walkinshaw, the Arrows team owner, of Hill winning races in the second half of next season, despite the fact that Arrows won just one point last year. "I am not dreaming," Walkinshaw said, "I am trying to be realistic and analytical."

But there was indeed something missing, a subtle ally that has been at Hill's elbow at the start of every season, at every January launch, from the time he joined Williams in 1993 to the time he started his last season last year.

It was not optimism. It was certainly not determination or wholehearted commitment. Nor was it the belief that Arrows, with new sponsors, new and competitive Bridgestone tyres and Hill behind the wheel, are already forging their way into a bright future.

But Formula One is not a quick-fix sport. It takes time and money to drag a team from the bottom towards the top and, for the first time since his debut year with Williams, Hill is approaching the start of a season without the prospect that its end will bring him a world championship.

"It is very important to communicate to everyone," Hill said, "that there is no way I am going to enjoy the level of success I had last season. Even in a Williams, it was hard to win all those races and I started them all from the front. This year will be a completely different experience.

"But I am not in grand prix racing to fool around. I am too aware of the risks. I want to win. I have my pride. But I think it would be quite remarkable if we were to win a race this year and I am certainly not expecting it to happen. It is going to be a step backwards in order to go forwards and get back to the front."

Walkinshaw, who revealed that Hill's size 12 feet had forced a hasty and costly redesign of the car which set the building of it back a month, said the Englishman would probably test it for the first time at Silverstone next Wednesday.

"At first, I will be happy if Damon can qualify in the first four rows," Walkinshaw said. "I hope we can get him in a position by the second half of the season where he is in the points consistently. And if he gets to the podium there is no reason why he should not come away with a win, particularly as there may be three or four circuits where the Bridgestone tyres have an advantage over the Goodyears. Whatever happens, the honeymoon phase is over."

Ireland snap up Ashton

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

THE long arm of coincidence tapped on Brian Ashton's shoulder yesterday when the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU), moving with a speed that its own back division has failed to show in three internationals this season, appointed the former Bath coach as "advisor" to the management for the five nations' championship this season.

Only on Monday, Ashton's six-month career as head coach to the English champions was concluded and he admitted he had no offers in the pipeline: on Tuesday night, the IRFU dispensed with the services of Murray Kidd, its coach, and invited Ashton for an interview on Wednesday; yesterday Ashton, 50, said he was "staggered" at the turn of events.

Ashton will be coaching advisor to Pat Whelan, the team manager, and will work with Mike Brewer, the former New Zealand back-row forward, who has been assisting Kidd. Understandably, he will have no say in the selection of the XV to play France in Dublin on January 18. That will be named on Saturday night and already Mark McCall, the Dungannon centre, is unavailable because of a broken thumb.

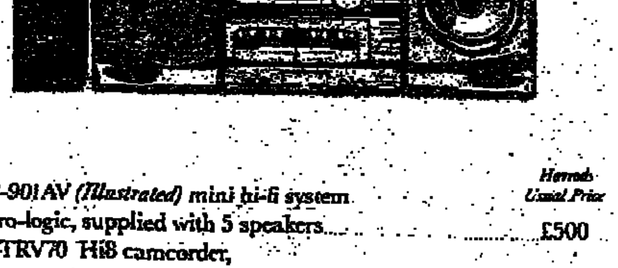
"I have no great knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the players but it's a terrific challenge," Ashton, who was assistant coach to England in 1984-85, said. Coincidentally, Ashton's appointment matches that made by the French federation this week of Pierre Villepreux, bringing into opposition two men who have worked together in the past.

The role with Ireland will also bring Ashton into conflict with Bath players he has coached when England play in Dublin on February 15: how ironic that on the day he was interviewed in Ireland, Jack Rowell, his former colleague at Bath, was suggesting that Ashton might have a role to play in the England coaching structure.

"Brian's involvement will only enhance our coaching set-up," Whelan said. "He's one of the top coaches in the northern hemisphere, his track record proves that. He will come in at a difficult time but he knows a lot of our players and he will find out about the rest very quickly." The full-time coaching post remains vacant until after the championship.

Jenkins withdraws, page 44

THERE IS ONLY ONE SONY SALE.



	Harrods Usual Price	SALE PRICE
SONY MHC-901AV *(Illustrated)* mini hi-fi system with Dolby pro-logic, supplied with 5 speakers	£500	£399
SONY CCD-TRV70 Hi8 camcorder, 4"colour screen, stereo sound, steady shot	£1,400	£999
SONY KV-G2915 29"(68cmV) Super Trintron television, fastext, NICAM stereo, built-in satellite	£850	£649
SONY SLV E500 VHS video recorder, 4 head, VideoPlus, easy set up, auto clock set, long play	£380	£299

Available from the Sound and Vision Department, Third Floor.

Personal shoppers only. Subject to availability.

SALE OPENING HOURS:
Today, 9am - 7pm. Tomorrow, 9am - 8pm. Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays 13th to 31st, 10am - 6pm. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 15th to 31st, 10am - 7pm. Last day Saturday 1st February, 9am - 7pm.

Harrods
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Harrods Ltd., Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7XL. Telephone 0171-730 1234.

مكنز من الأصل